

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 27, 2013

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Memory Lane

Former driver Paul tells of life on the buses

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Trophy night

Glassboys reap the rewards of the season

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Takeover deal saves bar and 25 jobs

THE future of a well-known bar in Stourbridge town centre has been secured in a takeover deal, saving 25 jobs.

A new company called Chicago Leisure has taken over the Chicago's bar, in High Street, two months after its former owners Atmosphere Bars and Clubs went into administration.

The bar opened last September in a unit formerly occupied by Que Pasa restaurant and bar.

Bosses spent £500,000 refurbishing the venue and it was described as a flagship for the nationwide brand.

The opening marked a return to the town for the chain after Chicago Rock Cafe, now the Chequers Inn, in High Street, closed down when then parent company 3DE collapsed and went into administration.

This week, manager James Whittingham said: "Chicago's in Stourbridge has been very successful since we opened it last year."

"We have excellent facilities and we are pleased our future has been secured."

The venue is one of eight bars and a restaurant formerly owned by Atmosphere Bar and Clubs to have been taken over by Chicago Leisure, of Milton Keynes.

Mr Whittingham added: "The new owners plan to invest in the business."

Go-ahead for £6m revamp

A £6 million plan to revamp Dudley's historic market place has been given the go-ahead.

The long-awaited project, which is due to get under way early next year, was granted planning permission on Monday. Under the proposals the old toilet block will be demolished to open up the view from the High Street towards the castle.

There will be a redesigned market square and the Duncan Edwards statue will be refurbished. Lighting will be installed to illuminate the town centre's architecture.

DELAYS ALERT OVER TOWN CENTRE WORK

DRIVERS in Stourbridge have been warned of possible delays and disruptions to traffic as work starts on the next phase of the multi-million pound Tesco development.

A number of streets will be shut to allow the work to go ahead, it was announced this week.

Crown Lane, near the Mitre pub, will be closed from July 8 to 26 to enable a new road to be built from the supermarket.

Contractors are also planning to start work on Crown Square, the public area outside Rimska cafe, where the town's historic clock stands.

Dudley Council officials say work will also take place in Crown Square for around 13 weeks, but will be completed in five phases.

Shoppers and motorists are being warned that access to Coventry Street will be closed via a diversion off Duke Street to enable a new roadway to be constructed.

Welcome

The authority's transport boss, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said all the businesses nearby would be notified in advance of work taking place to Crown Square, along with businesses in Coventry Street.

And he said that the town still wanted to welcome shoppers despite the disruption.

He said: "Stourbridge town centre is open for business as normal during these works, and access to the town centre will be maintained for pedestrians and vehicles."

Museum makes loss of £600,000

THE Black Country Living Museum made a loss of £599,745 as the number of visitors plummeted by almost 50,000 in a year, latest accounts have revealed. Bosses blamed bad weather for the fall in the number of visitors.

● Full story - Page 4

Blind golfer celebrates hole-in-one



Blind golf player Arthur Aston celebrating his spectacular hole-in-one shot

BLIND golfer Arthur Aston is celebrating after hitting his first hole-in-one.

Mr Aston, of Kinver, managed the feat while playing at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club this month.

And he celebrated in the customary way by buying a round of drinks for his golfing buddies.

The 67-year-old played golf for 10 years before losing his sight through illness in August 2011.

"I wanted as far as possible to get back to normality and do things I had done before," said the retired sales director who is married to Pat, 68, and lives in Cedar Gardens.

"I picked two things - one was learning to use the computer which I have done and the other was to see if it was possible to play golf again."

Unique

Mr Aston went to the Gaudet Luce golf course in Droitwich, which offers a unique course for blind and partially sighted people.

And the effort proved worthwhile when Mr Aston, who has two daughters Claire, 40, and Jane, 37, and an 18-month-old granddaughter, Molly, hit his killer shot while playing with friend Roy Chapman.

He said: "I could feel I had hit a good shot and Roy just kept saying 'I don't believe it, I've never seen that before' and he said it had gone in the hole."

"I thought he was having a joke at my expense, I wouldn't believe him until we got to the hole, he guided me to the hole, lifted the flagpole and there was my ball."

Four hurt in horrific late-night stabbing

FIVE people were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a man was stabbed in Stourbridge.

Police were called to reports of disorder outside The Arena nightclub, formerly The Picture House, on Hagley Road at 3.23am on Sunday.

Three people were taken to hospital for treatment and one remained in hospital with stab injuries. His condition is not thought to be life threatening.

The two other injured people were discharged from hospital.

Investigations were this week continuing into the circumstances surrounding the drama.

The five arrested men aged 21, 23, 25, 28 and 31 have been bailed until the end of August, pending further inquiries.

One resident in nearby Union Road, Damien Hamilton, 38, told how he woke to find blood on the doorway of his home.

And neighbour Geoff Cook, aged 43, also of Union Street, said he saw the street littered with nightclub flyers, a police cordon in place at the scene of the disturbance and a bloody handprint on the door of a property in Union Street.

"It must have been quite a brawl because it covered quite a lot of street," he added.

Homes plan is approved

A CANALSIDE housing estate planned for a site next to a proposed £5 million glass museum in Stourbridge has moved a step closer to reality.

Proposals to build 48 homes on part of the old Stuart Crystal glassworks site, off Argyle Close, in Wordsley, were approved by councillors on Monday.

It comes as plans to develop a Grade II listed former factory near the site into a museum showcasing the history of the area's heritage are drawn up.

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Mayor urges residents to back food bank

THE Mayor of Dudley has backed a food charity which helps thousands of people in the borough each year.

Dudley Council is officially supporting Black Country Food Bank and is encouraging residents to join in.

The charity provides food and other support to vulnerable people and those in most need.

The council has pledged to

support the group by setting up drop-off points for people to donate food and other items to the charity.

Last year the food bank fed 3,735 people from Dudley borough, but this year the figure could rise to 6,200.

People are being urged to give what they can or buy an extra item in their weekly shop and donate at one of the drop-off points.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "The Food Bank also needs your help and support, by donating items such as UHT or powdered milk, baked beans, or a packet of pasta and rice. These items are not expensive and you might have them already sitting in your cupboard. I would urge people to give what they can and help support people in most need."

Black Country Food Bank helps vulnerable people and families in crisis through the provision of three days of emergency food supplies while a longer-term solution is developed.

The charity has also set up a shopping list of the items they most need. For more information on Black Country Food Bank visit www.black-countryfoodbank.org.uk

Football complex set for go-ahead

A £1 million football complex earmarked for playing fields in Dudley is to be given the go-ahead, despite concerns raised by residents.

An all-weather flood-lit pitch and a challenge course is planned as the next phase of Dudley College's town centre learning quarter.

There will be changing facilities with parking for players and visitors and it will be open to students, schools and the community. The complex will be built to Football Association standards on playing fields next to Castle High School, in Priory Road.

But the proposals are unpopular with people living nearby who fear their peace and quiet will be disturbed.

Ten households concerned about noise have raised objections. They are also worried about the flood lights which will be installed and an increase in traffic at the site.

But Dudley Council planners recommended the proposals to councillors for approval.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "We have agreed a usage plan to guarantee the facility will not cause any unnecessary disruption. The benefits the new facility will bring to the community are immense."

Skills to be improved by degrees

A TWO-YEAR course benefiting employers in the West Midlands in the manufacturing engineering sector is to be launched by the University of Wolverhampton in September.

The BEng (Hons) Manufacturing Engineering course, is an employer-sponsored degree which will allow businesses to improve their employees' skills.

Sponsored employees will attend the university two days a week and spend three days a week in the workplace.

The university collaborated with a number of partners including UTC Aerospace Systems, Caparo Tube Components, TRW Automotive, Moog Aircraft Group and Caterpillar UK in the development of the course.

SHOPS and businesses in the Dudley borough are being encouraged to sign up to become safe places for residents with dementia.

Dudley Council is working to improve the support given to the growing number of pensioners diagnosed with the condition.

It comes as work on the first stage of a £1.6 million project to revamp two day centres to help them better serve the needs of residents with dementia gets under way.

Brettell Lane Centre, in Stourbridge, and Brett Young Centre, in Halesowen, which are being refurbished in the coming months, are both 'Dementia Gateways', providing advice and practical help.

Staff will be talking to shopkeepers, community leaders and workers at key locations in towns to educate them about dementia and explaining how they can support customers with the condition.

Council staff spent two days talking to shoppers and shopkeepers about the initiative at the Cornbow Centre, in Halesowen.

Any dementia-friendly places will be able to display a recognisable 'safe place' logo. Shoppers can then be assured that their needs will be recognised and they will be supported.

It is estimated that around 3,850 people in the borough are affected by the condition.

Supporting

Councillor Dave Branwood, cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "Despite difficult budgetary pressures we are responding to the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia Document to develop dementia-friendly communities in Dudley borough."

"We have been supporting people with dementia through our dementia gateways since 2011 and are keen to help break down barriers that exist in society."

"People living with dementia tell us they commonly experience loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression because society and communities are not geared up to deal with people with dementia."

"The recent visit to Halesowen was a great success and well received by the community, with people very happy to come on board."

Students give church £31k makeover



Exciting opportunity – Garfield Young with his teacher, Andy Gurney at work on the church

THE bells were ringing loud and clear across Lye last week after students from Sandwell College helped put the finishing touches to a £31,000 church restoration project.

Seven painting and decorating students refurbished the woodwork in the ringing chamber of Christ Church, High Street, and repainted the room.

Bob Field, chairman of the bells restoration committee, said it was a pleasure to have the students involved.

"They have worked really hard and the room looks fantastic."

The redecoration was the final stage of a four-year project which

has seen a complete overhaul of the interior of the 200-year-old tower.

The work, all of which was completed by volunteers, involved re-hanging the bells and fitting new ceilings and floors.

Sandwell College got involved in the project through head of construction Mike Barnbrook, 49, a member of the church's congregation.

He said: "I have been in the trade for 30 years and I've never painted anything like this. It's fantastic experience for our students."

Teacher Andy Gurney, 52, said: "The paint on the woodwork had

been there for more than 60 years, so it's a delicate job."

"The project has given them the opportunity to take the skills they have learned at college and put them into practice."

Garfield Young, 50, a student from West Bromwich, said he was excited when the opportunity came up.

"I will probably never get the chance to work on something like this again. I'm used to working on newer buildings, but working with old materials is completely different."

This year Christ Church celebrates its bi-centennial having opened in 1813.

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Residents offered check-up for homes



Steve Waltho

RESIDENTS in Dudley borough are being offered a free home 'health check'.

The service is run by Dudley Council's home improvement team. They are encouraging homeowners aged 55-plus, who are struggling to organise or pay for essential home repairs, maintenance or adaptations, to get in touch.

People can discuss repairs or modernisation required with experts from the council's home improvement team.

Help and advice is then on offer with finance for the work needed, as well as the offer of a project management service.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member housing, said: "The service really can help people to improve their homes in a stress and hassle-free way."

"The free home health check aims to remind people that their home can have a major impact on their health and wellbeing."

Dudley home improvement service is on 01384 817086.

Motorcycle club revs up for show

STOURBRIDGE Motorcycle Club holds its annual Custom Show on July 6, when there will be awards for the best in 10 classes.

The event, in its 15th year, will be at the River Rooms in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge.

The award categories are: classic, trike, rat, street-fighter, chop, paint, scooter, Harley, custom car and best in show.

The show will include a disco, live music and a bouncy castle. Admission is £1. For information see the Stourbridge MCC Custom Show Facebook page.

Speed limit is to be slashed near schools

SPEED limits are to be slashed outside schools in the Dudley borough as part of safety measures to protect children, after the plans were passed by council bosses.

But opposition councillors are asking for a rethink, saying the moves could lead to traffic congestion.

Teachers, governors, parents and community leaders have called for speed limits to be cut on the busiest roads to improve safety for schoolchildren.

Dudley Council bosses want to introduce 20mph speed limits or other safety measures on roads outside 11 schools initially.

Proposals presented to the council's cabinet last Thursday were welcomed by the authority's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, and the group agreed to push ahead with the scheme.

But opposition Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said

the proposals needed to be taken back to the drawing board.

Councillor Harley proposed that the 20mph limits come into force only during school opening and closing times, for an hour at a time.

"What we want is for it to be looked at again so that the 20mph limits are only in place for the school run," he said.

"This is so that it does not hinder people travelling at all hours of the day.

"There's no need to have these speed limits at 7pm or 8pm for instance. There is no point having people caught in traffic. We'll be looking to raise the matter again."

Among the other items agreed at the meeting was a £1.3 million plan to convert the former Old Park Special School, in Corby Road, on the Russells Hall estate, as a base for both the authority's children's safeguarding unit and social work teams.



Councillor Patrick Harley

Demolition will signal start of work on hotel

DEMOLITION work is due to get under way on land earmarked for the construction of a £6 million hotel and restaurant development in Stourbridge.

It comes after two fires at the site in Birmingham Street when arsonists set fire to piles of rubbish.

But developers said the fires had not set the Premier Inn project back, and the former Cox Hire building would be knocked down within weeks. Construction work is then expected to begin in the autumn.

Arsonists stuck at the site, but no damage was caused.

James Boyd-Wallis, spokesman for Premier Inn, said: "The fire hasn't impacted on the work taking place, and everything is still on track."

"The developer is just waiting for the existing utilities to be disconnected, and once disconnected, demolition is set to start."

As well as the hotel, there will be a Brewers Fayre restaurant with 122 car parking spaces. The 80-bed hotel will create 43 full-time and 22 part-time jobs. There will also be extra jobs during the hotel's construction.

Historic

The site has been used for many years by Cox Hire Ltd but the firm has relocated to Netherton. Councillors have welcomed the development of the site.

Developers say more than 70 residents in Stourbridge were consulted about the plans and one letter of objection was received, regarding the plans not being suited to the historic townscape.

When the plans went before the council's planning committee in February, members heard that the only concerns raised by the Environment Agency were of possible contamination following the former Cox Hire site's use as industrial land, and minor flooding.

Stourbridge Township Council chairman Margaret Scott has backed the proposals, saying the development will be a welcome boost to the town.

Work is progressing on a Premier Inn hotel in Dudley. A topping-out ceremony last week marked the completion of construction. Now the inside will be decorated and furnished. The hotel at the Castlegate Business Park is to open at the end of next month, creating 35 jobs.

Couple won love at game of Monopoly



Roy and Janet Williams of Netherton, who are celebrating their diamond anniversary

IT was love at the first roll of the dice for Janet and Roy Williams who fell for each other while playing a game of Monopoly.

And 62 years later the couple, who live in Netherton, have celebrated their diamond wedding.

Mrs Williams, 81, said: "We were playing at my sister's home. Roy is my brother-in-law's cousin so that's how we met. We liked each other straight away. I thought if he lets me win at Monopoly he can't be that bad."

But Mrs Williams admitted she wasn't a big Monopoly fan. She added: "I've never played again since that day."

The couple married at St Peter's Church in Cradley on June 13 1953. During their working life, Mr Williams, 83, was in credit control and Mrs Williams did book-keeping and accountancy.

Football

The couple have three surviving children: Stephen, Carol and Andrew. Another son, Michael, died when he was just one.

They also have four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Mrs Williams said they enjoyed watching football and cricket together as Mr Williams is an avid Aston Villa fan.

To celebrate their wedding anniversary they held a family party.

Mrs Williams said: "We have a happy life together. We have our ups and downs but we always talk everything through."



Roy and Janet tie the knot in 1953

NEWS in brief

999 service backs cardiac scheme

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service has backed a campaign calling for the Government to make defibrillators mandatory in all schools.

About 270 pupils suffer cardiac arrests in UK schools each year and charity Sads UK has handed over a petition with more than 8,000 signatures.

A West Midlands ambulance spokesman said: "The service fully supports Sads UK with their campaign."

Grand Canyon trek for chef Carl

A CHEF is getting ready for a challenging trek in the Grand Canyon in aid of charity.

Carl Bladon, aged 57, will be taking on the four-day challenge in March, when he will trek 3,000ft down the canyon in Colorado, and 40 miles back to the top.

Mr Bladon, of Quinton Avenue, Great Wyrley, plans to raise funds for the Have a Heart charity for disadvantaged children.

To sponsor Mr Bladon visit <http://uk.virgin-moneygiving.com>

Singing and acting at summer school

YOUNG singers, dancers and actors can take part in a summer school in Walsall.

Breakout Performing Arts will hold the workshop from August 12 to 16, from 9am to 3pm every day at the Performance Hub at the Walsall Campus of Wolverhampton University. The week ends with a performance. Details from 0790 5831508.

Cameras to keep watch at reserve

CCTV cameras have been installed at a Walsall beauty spot to tackle fly-tippers and thieves.

The cameras are at Moorcroft Wood Local Nature Reserve, Moxley. There were complaints about rubbish being dumped there.

The move has been welcomed by campaigners.

Bridge project

WORK to strengthen a road bridge in Halesowen is nearing completion. The £300,000 project at the Rumbow bridge to carry heavier vehicles began in March. Workers are replacing the concrete deck and resurfacing the road.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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WE ARE on holiday in Beer, Devon. As I write this, it's another sultry day on the beach, heat rippling off the pebbles and the sky as blue as a sailor's shirt. Trippers in shorts and sunglasses queue for the all-day breakfasts and chat lazily under the cafe umbrellas. It is worth recalling that the weather experts who last week hadn't a clue that this hot spell was coming are the same forecasters who are this week predicting washout summers for the next 10 years. So they can't get it right five days ahead but they are quietly confident about 2023. Allow me to raise one eyebrow.

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A MET Office spokesman on Radio 4 helpfully explained the difference between weather and climate. Climate is what you expect. Weather is what you get.

□□□□□□□□

AFTER 12 years of combat in Afghanistan, the Americans and UK are now seeking peace talks with the Taliban. Isn't this what we used to call a defeat?

□□□□□□□□

I LOVED the story a few days ago about little Adam Kirby, from south London who, at the age of two was found to have an IQ of 141. Mind you, his parents guessed he was a bit of a prodigy when Adam potty-trained himself at 23 months - having read a book on the subject.

□□□□□□□□

A REPORT by the Institute of Fiscal Studies reveals that Britons are consuming fewer calories but are two stone heavier than people were 30 years ago. So what's new? I recall my father, a builder, remarking in the 1970s on the shrinking size of the average labourer's lunch. Back in the 1950s, when men worked without the aid of brick hoes, cement mixers or dumper trucks, lunch on building sites was a big, calorie-packed meal of cheese or corned-beef sandwiches. By the 1970s it had shrunk to a bag of crisps and a Kit-Kat. We have swapped backbreaking toil for flabby bodies and most folk seem happy with the deal.

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THIS week yet another survey reveals that white British kids from poor homes are the ethnic group least likely to succeed at school. We ought to be surprised, but are we? Every other group seems to realise that education is the way to succeed in life. In too many British families, anyone who shows academic promise is taunted for being a swat, a snob or a class traitor. Deep in the DNA of Britain is the belief that you must know your place and never get above yourself and that college ain't for the likes of us. Kids fail because they are bred to fail.

□□□□□□□□

I HAVE been in journalism for 44 years and I bet each of those 44 years has brought news of an imminent miracle cure for cancer. Latest contender this week is a paper in Nature Cell Biology which tells how scientists at University College London believe they have discovered how cancer spreads from one part of the body to another. If they are on the right track they say it could be "relatively easy" to develop drugs to stop it. And yet look behind the headlines and you discover that the scientists have been working with frog and fish embryos rather than cancer cells and experts admit: "There's a very long way to go." I am dead against censorship but just as pornography should be carefully monitored and controlled, so should hope.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Councils spend £4.6m on travel in a year

COUNCILS spent £4.6 million on travel in one year despite swingeing budget cuts.

The total amount local authorities in the Black Country and Staffordshire paid for flights, hotels, rail and mileage was £3,991,987 in 2009 but rose by more than £600,000 in 2012.

The revelation comes as a group of West Midlands council leaders from both Labour and Tory parties appealed to the Government to not cut their funding further, after having to take millions of pounds out of services since 2010.

Councillors stressed they always

tried to get the best possible value for travel and said increases in rail fares and fuel costs beyond their control had added to the bill.

In Wolverhampton, the city council spent £54,539 on hotels, £268,892 on trains and £2,257 on air fares as well as £11,943 on buses in 2011-12.

The train fare bill for 2012-13 in Wolverhampton was £144,188 but more recent figures for other councils are not available.

Council leader Roger Lawrence said that when he travelled on council business, he bought the cheapest possible ticket.

Walsall Council spent £2,029,788 on overall travel and hotels in 2009 compared with £2,313,387 in 2011-12. Mike Bird, Walsall Council's leader, said: "We keep a very close eye on it, but fares increase year on year, and that's outside our control."

Accommodation

In Dudley, costs for car mileage came down between 2010 and 2011 to £1.67m but were still higher than in 2009 when the council spent £1.36m. It is also spending less than half what it used to spend on rail travel and hotel accommodation.

Cannock Chase Council also saw a

rise in travel costs from £5,854 in 2009 to £7,726 in 2011-12.

One of the biggest spenders was Birmingham City Council which spent £319,000 over five years visiting 43 countries. Sandwell Council refused to answer a request for details of spending on travel and accommodation.

Wyre Forest saw its costs fall from £4,763 in 2009 to £3,828 in 2011-12.

The costs at Stafford Council dropped from £213,249 to £196,034 and at Lichfield from £110,145 to £89,912. South Staffordshire Council spent £720 on travel and hotel accommodation in 2011-12.

Museum loses £600k as visitor numbers fall

THE Black Country Living Museum made a loss of £599,745 as visitor numbers plummeted by almost 50,000 in a year, its latest accounts have revealed.

A fall in ticket sales and museum £285,202 last year and a drop in donations and the value of assets added to its problems.

Bosses at the museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, blamed the poor weather last year as they revealed the number of people through the doors - 249,574 - was 'well below' their target of 300,000 and down on 2011's 298,965.

Difficult

Details revealed in the museum's annual accounts up to the end of 2012 show attendance fell 16 per cent compared with 2011.

The museum shed 26 of its 239 staff and closed twice a week between November and Easter to save £250,000 a year.

In a report accompanying the accounts, chairman of the museum trust John Hughes, said: "Trading conditions were difficult in 2012."

"The markedly reduced visitor attendance and lower levels of spend on site meant that, in common with many chargeable outdoor attractions, the museum sustained a trading loss of £285,202."

"After reflecting depreciation charges, restricted donations and investments, restructuring costs and the pension adjustment there was a net adverse movement in funds before the actuarial loss on the pension fund, of £599,745."

spending on site cost the by Daniel Wainwright

The accounts showed the museum had a better year in terms of income from filming rights.

It made £26,385 last year compared with £3,640 the year before. Stars Jacqueline Bisset, Anthony Head and John Goodman filmed a period drama, Dancing on the Edge, at the museum.

Andrew Lovett, chief executive of the museum, said there were no plans for any more job losses but did not rule them out.

"We don't expect the headcount to change this year", he said. "However, as a 100 per cent self-funded charity, we have to be very aware of levels of attendance and earned income."

Decisions

"The trading result for 2012 was a loss of £285,000 due to a fall in visitor attendance, due to a combination of fragile economic conditions affecting consumer confidence and very poor weather."

"So far as future developments are concerned we are consulting widely to inform the public of our plans and no decisions have been made."

The museum was recently awarded £157,000 in arts funding as part of a government backed Arts Council grant to develop new projects.

Kickboxers aiming for glory



Calum Pearson, 15, and Tyler Cox, nine, from Quarry Bank, picked for England

TWO young kickboxing stars are aiming for glory, having been selected to represent England in the world championships.

Nine-year-old Tyler Cox, from Pedmore, in Stourbridge, has already bagged himself a host of top honours including two world championships and a European title despite his tender age.

He has now been joined by his pal Calum Pearson, 15, from Quarry Bank, to take their challenge for honours to the ICO World Championships in October.

The pair, who train at Charlesworth Martial Arts gym, in Birmingham Street, Halesowen, have been selected for the English kickboxing team which will fly out

to Bulgaria for their world title shots.

Tyler, a pupil at Hob Green Primary School, is a 1st Dan black belt. His father Darren said: "We are proud of him and he is looking forward to it."

Calum attends Thorns Community College and juggles studies with twice-weekly training sessions, football training and paper rounds. He is already England Open champion.

His father Glenn, aged 40, said: "I'm over the moon for him. To represent his country is great."

Tyler and Calum teamed up to become tag-team champions in the South West Open in March.

Group is tracing stories of the fallen

A GROUP hoping to gather the stories of Wall Heath's and Kingswinford's war heroes is now just a few names away from success.

Wall Heath and Kingswinford War Memorials Research Group is working to create a book dedicated to the men of the area who lost their lives in the two world wars.

When they began their work in November the volunteers had 112 names from local war memorials to find out about.

Through displays, appeals and hours of knocking on doors, the group now has just a few names remaining, said secretary Guy Marshall.

Particular help is needed with information about W. Holden on the Kingswinford memorial from the Second World War; W. Deeley from the First World War, who is possibly buried in Dudley; WSE Southall; W. Wilks or Wilkes; JT Williams, who may have been a miner, and F Willetts or Willets.

Mr Marshall said the group would have an exhibition at Wall Heath Church of the Ascension Hall on Saturday, Armed Forces Day.

Anyone who thinks they can help should call 07739572121.

A book with the stories of the men is hoped to be published by November next year.

Grants aim to help firms be greener

BUSINESSES operating in the green sector in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire will be able to bid for help from a £20 million funding programme to help small and medium-sized firms grow.

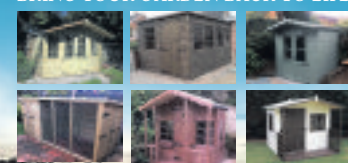
The Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme is available to businesses in the local enterprise partnership areas including Birmingham and Solihull, and the Black Country.

The scheme will help firms involved in areas such as renewable energy and low carbon products with grants of between £20,000 and £100,000.

A spokesman said it would help firms to adopt and adapt to more energy-efficient and innovative methods.

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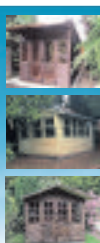
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First time buyers are facing a long wait

FIRST time buyers in the West Midlands have been 'locked out' of the property market for almost a decade because of a shortage of affordable homes, new research has revealed.

Low earnings, high house prices, the cost of rent and spending on essentials are stopping people from saving the deposit to buy their first home.

The study by Shelter found that couples who start a family in their 20s could be saving for a deposit almost 10 years - nearly double the time faced by childless couples.

This could mean their children would be in secondary school before they own a home. Couples without a child face an average of five years of saving to buy a home in the West Midlands.

Single people in the West Midlands face the greatest struggle.

A single person could need more than 10 years to save enough for a deposit, trapping many in uncertain private renting or forcing them to live with their parents well into adulthood, according to the figures.

Couples with children in areas like Dudley and Walsall are facing a wait of nearly 11 years.

The number of affordable homes completed in 2012/13 was down by 29 per cent from the previous year.

Tournament raises cash for charity

GOALS Dudley hosted the first Support Stan five-a-side football tournament and helped raise over £1,000 for the Cure Leukemia charity.

The 33-team tournament, which took place at the FA accredited centre off Cake-more Road, included ex-professionals, celebrities and friends of former Aston Villa captain Stillan Petrov who was diagnosed with acute leukaemia in 2012.

Goals assistant manager Dave Challoner said: "It's a fantastic amount of money to raise. We are just happy that we could help."

The tournament was won by Boing FC. They beat Hod Harriers in the final, 4-1.

To donate, log on to <http://www.cureleukaemia.co.uk/events.php>

Taxi driver cleared of assaulting teenager

by Andrew Turton

A TAXI driver who confronted a 13-year-old boy after his cab came under a snowball attack from a group of teenagers, has been cleared of assault.

Mohammed Shafiq, aged 41, stopped his car in Marriott Road in Netherton, and grabbed the rucksack strap of the boy to show him the £250 damage caused.

Mr Shafiq was later arrested and charged with assault. But at Dudley Magistrates Court, three magistrates found Mr Shafiq, of High Street, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, not guilty.

Chairman of the bench David Greenaway said: "He had a responsibility to protect, and he was entitled to confront the teenage boys."

"He did no more than grab the rucksack. This was a reasonable action in attempt to resolve damage to the vehicle."

Following the verdict, Mr Shafiq said that the case, which resulted in him being suspended from some duties of his work, had cost him £8,000 in earnings.

Mr Shafiq, who has worked in Dudley and Walsall as a Hackney

Carriage taxi driver for 18 years, said: "Commonsense has prevailed."

"I should never have been charged for this. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Taxi drivers are attacked all the time from kids, not just with snowballs, but stones and bricks too."

Incident

During the trial, the court heard claims from the 13-year-old boy that Mr Shafiq had shaken him and tried to push him into the back of his taxi during a fracas.

But Mr Shafiq denied the claims, saying he led the boy over to his taxi

to see the dent one of the snowballs had made.

The incident happened at 3.30pm on January 25.

The boy said one of his friends had decided to throw a single snowball at Mr Shafiq's taxi.

He was transporting a nine-year-old girl and a child escort called Susan Dunn, aged 56, from Brierley Hill, who worked at the Four Star Taxi company.

Mr Shafiq turned the taxi round, pulled up and checked on his passengers before approaching the 13-year-old and his two friends.



Taxi driver Mr Shafiq

Boss of waste mountain firm threatened with jail

A WASTE firm boss has been given a suspended jail sentence for failing to get rid of a towering pile of rubbish in Brierley Hill that once reached 40ft.

Robert McNaughton, who is the boss at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd, in Brierley Hill, was found in contempt of court because he failed to meet strict legal targets to clear the huge mound.

He has been warned his six-month jail sentence will be activated if he does not clear the site in Moor Street completely, by September 10.

Residents living nearby, including in new homes built on the old Royal Brierley Crystal site, have been demanding a clear-up since 2009. But it took a more than a year of courtroom battles to force bosses to take action or face the threat of six months behind bars.

High Court judge Mr Justice Burton hit out at the waste management firm for creating a 'real eyesore and health danger' by failing to clear a towering rubbish pile at its site.

He said the suspended sentence would be activated on December 23 unless the rubbish was cleared.

Danger

He also banned any further waste being taken on to the site from July 10, at the High Court hearing in Birmingham.

McNaughton, the firm's former director Sharon McCann and the company itself were all found in contempt of court. No further action was taken against McCann. Mr Justice Burton, during sentencing, said: "The real eyesore and health danger of the pile, quite apart from anything, concerns me. Injunctions have not only been made but undertakings given to the court and they have been flagrantly breached."

Nick Cole, representing the Environment Agency, said the waste was around 19ft high in places.

Yesterday's court action came after the Environment Agency claimed the firm had failed to keep to previous



The rubbish mound at refuse derived Fuel Ltd, Brierley Hill, seen near flats in Bague Walk. At its worst, it reached 40ft high

rulings. These included claims the firm had failed to remove half the waste, from around the front of the site, by March.

Another previous ruling said rubbish should be cleared in full by July 10.

But McNaughton claimed in court that it would be impossible to meet that deadline because of lack of funds.

McNaughton, who was not represented, said he had already spent £60,000 in legal fees on the case and estimated the cost of the clearance would be £750,000. He claimed bad

weather had souped the clear-up process. Giving evidence he said adverse publicity was hitting his reputation with customers.

When asked by the Judge why he had not complied, McNaughton said: "They - the Environment Agency - wanted us to move it to landfill but I need income to pay for landfill."

Mr Justice Burton ordered the defendants should pay the Environment Agency's legal costs. The figure has yet to be agreed.



The view of the rubbish from houses in The Breeze

NEWS

in brief

Jobless toll after employ closure

MORE than 1,000 disabled workers made redundant by the Government's decision to shut Remploy factories remain unemployed, new figures show.

Work and pensions minister Esther McVey said 1,522 people lost their jobs since the Department for Work and Pensions and Remploy announced the factories were to close last March.

Jobs have been found for 462 employees and 386 are currently in work.

Firm hands over £25k donation

A TRAVEL company in Halesowen has raised more than £25,000 for a children's charity.

Acorn Venture in Prospect Road, has handed over the cash to Action for Children.

The money was raised from customer donations and takes the total amount donated from the company to the charity in 10 years to £130,000.

The charity organises adventure and educational trips for schools, youth groups and families in the UK.

War memorial group is to meet

THE Wall Heath & Kingswinford War Memorials Group will be at the Church of the Ascension Hall in Wall Heath on Saturday for a meeting on the Wall Heath Fair and Armed Forces Day.

The group is creating a book dedicated to the 112 men of the area who lost their lives in the world's two major conflicts.

Decision awaited on homes plan

PLANS for two houses on vacant land in Stourbridge have been lodged.

Cadismount Ltd has submitted proposals for the properties, in Attwood Street, at the junction with Brook Street, Lye. The scheme includes car parking.

Dudley Council is due to make a decision in the next three months.

Bingo invitation

A CHARITY bingo evening will be held for the children's ward at Russell's Hall Hospital. Brierley Hill Mecca Bingo hosts the event on Saturday. The £15 entry ticket will include a meal, a glass of bubbly and a prize draw.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

HOW depressing that even the Girl Guides has fallen victim to the fashionable mantra of 'inclusivity' and dropped all reference to God and country from the movement's traditional pledge.

The patriotic commitment to serving one's country has been replaced by one to the 'community'. New recruits will also pledge to "be true to myself and develop my beliefs". Who wrote this stuff? Carly Simon?

Perhaps we should be grateful they are not expected to affirm their belief in global warming.

All this, of course, is just what you might expect from an organisation which is now led by Julie Bentley, the former head of the Family Planning Association.

But she knows all about being prepared.

BAFFLED by the return of Joe Kinnear as director of football at Newcastle United, former Toon midfielder turned Twitter philosopher Joey Barton has labelled the goings-on at his old club as a 'circus sideshow'.

Now would this be the same Joey Barton whose idea of a Christmas party involves stubbing a cigar out in his teammates' eyes?

Apparently so. Other highlights of Mr Barton's career include breaking the leg of a pedestrian while driving his car, an altercation with a 15-year-old at a Bangkok Hotel, dropping his shorts at Everton fans at the end of a game, and putting his teammate Ousmane Dabo in hospital.

In 2008 he was jailed for six months after admitting common assault and affray, and in 2010 he was banned by the FA for violent conduct after punching Blackburn Rovers' Morten Gamst Pedersen in the ribs.

There was also the incident during a game at Aston Villa where he celebrated a goal by raising his arm in the air and pointing to his moustache. He explained that this was because he had won a bet which meant he could now shave off his moustache.

Of course it was. I mean what else could it have meant?

Not forgetting, of course, the incident last year, where he decided to round off the season in his own inimitable style.

After being sent off for elbowing Manchester City's Carlos Tévez in the face, he decided to voice his disquiet by kicking Sergio Agüero in the back of the knee and attempting to give Vincent Kompany a Glasgow kiss.

As he was dragged off the pitch by his former team-mate Micah Richards, he attempted to square-up to that other shrinking violet, Mario Balotelli.

He was subsequently banned for 12 games by the FA and fined £75,000 after being found guilty of three charges of violent conduct.

Newcastle United a circus show? They're rank amateurs, Joey.



Catherine, centre, in a Great Barr dance show in 1983



Early days on British TV with Georgie duo Ant and Dec



Cat with her husband comedian Patrick Kielty

Cat's perfect career as a star of American TV

Elizabeth Joyce looks at the rise of Cat Deeley, a Great Barr girl who is the toast of Tinseltown

SHE lives in a Beverly Hills mansion, graces the most A-list of red carpets and is held aloft as a fashion and beauty icon.

But it wasn't all that long ago that Cat Deeley was playing clarinet with Sandwell Youth Concert Band and enjoying bonfire night parties in the back garden of her Sutton Coldfield home.

Cat, or Catherine Elizabeth Deeley as she was known back then, grew up in a quiet country lane and attended Grove Vale Junior School and then Dartmouth High, both in Great Barr.

Now, she's the toast of Tinseltown. It was 2006 that she jetted off to LA Land and has not looked back since.

A presenting gig for So You Think You Can Dance made her a household name in the States and the West Midlands-girl-done-good also landed jobs on American Idol and legendary breakfast TV show Good Morning America.

Shimmering

Her success was highlighted earlier this month when she stepped out on the red carpet of the third annual Critics' Choice Television Awards after being nominated for best presenter for So You Think You Can Dance, which she is now handling for the 10th series.

She made headlines at the event with her shimmering gold Monique Lhuillier dress and those famous blonde locks, which have also nabbed her a lucrative deal with Pantene.

During her time in the States, Cat has also been romantically linked to Leonardo DiCaprio and had a long-term relationship with actor Jack Houston but it is comedian Patrick Kielty that won her heart. Check out her engagement



Radiant Cat at the television awards in Beverly Hills, California, this month

ring if you're in any doubt. And she and her hubby now live full time in her Beverly Hills mansion - and a family may be the next thing on the agenda after they tied the knot in Rome last year.

"Look, it took us 10 years to get this far, so don't rush me!" she recently said. "But yes, I do think at some stage or another we would like a family."

Cat, 36, spoke about her marriage for the first time when she recently appeared on Jimmy Fallon's US talk show.

"There had always been a bit of a

But for all the glitz and glamour of her life nowadays, she remembers her childhood in Sutton fondly, despite the fact she grew up as the only Albion fan in a family of Wolves supporters.

Growing up, her father Howard worked as a pattern maker for local car companies and her mother Jan worked in social security until Cat and brother Max were born.

She left Dartmouth High with nine A-grade GCSEs and a Grade 5 in clarinet.

When she finished at Bishop Vesey sixth form she had four A-levels in history, maths, general studies and English literature.

But her stunning good looks meant a career in modelling was almost inevitable.

She entered a modelling competition at The Clothes Show Live in Birmingham and was spotted by a booker for uber agency Storm, home to Kate Moss. Storm rebranded her as Cat and four years later she ventured into TV.

MTV soon latched on to her good looks and down-to-earth attitude and Cat went on to front a number of shows on the network, including MTV Amour, Stylisimo, Hitlist UK and MTV Select.

Morning

It was through MTV that Cat got one of her most well-known and best-loved gigs - starring alongside Ant and Dec on children's Saturday morning TV show, SM:TV Live.

Every week, more than two million people tuned in to see the madness unfold, with viewers going gaga for the likes of Wonky Donkey and Friends parody, Chums.

Cat moved on to host Stars In Their Eyes and Fame Academy alongside future hubby Patrick.

By now, she was a household name and the lure of America proved too much to ignore. Turned out it was the best decision of her life. Talk about the Cat that got the cream.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A COALMAN performed a back-breaking charity stunt for hospital patients by lugging a bag of coal almost the whole way from Wolverhampton to Cannock. John Tunncliffe, from Cannock, raised about £200 after completing the 11 mile journey in three-and-a-half hours.

TWO schoolmates were celebrating after copping top jobs in the West Midlands police force. Graham Jones and Richard Chidley were promoted to detective chief inspector and detective superintendent respectively.

BREWSTER the accident-prone mongrel was at it again after a leg injury led to yet another trip to the vets. The lovable scamp from Stourbridge cost just £3 but ran up more than £400 in vets bills during a nine month period.

1993...

WOLVERHAMPTON pensioners joined thousands of protesters from all over the country to lobby the government against proposed heating taxes. OAPs descended on London to lobby Parliament about plans to put VAT on heating bills.

A GRANDMOTHER from Wolverhampton celebrated scooping £800,000 on the football pools - thanks to advice from her 12-year-old grandson. Sixty-year-old Joan Wharton from Featherstone won the bounty after asking young Grant to pick some of her numbers.

A SCHEME to rid Wolverhampton's nightspots of violent bouncers was launched with the aim of improving the poor public image of door staff. The scheme required all 400 doormen working in the city to join a police and council-run registration programme and a training course.

2003...

AUDIENCES were left asking "Sir" for more after a village youth theatre group performed the musical Oliver in Brewod. The popular production was staged at the Jubilee Hall and featured 27 members aged between seven and 17.

WOLVERHAMPTON mayor's chauffeur Bernard Ralphs hung up his uniform for the last time after years of dedicated service. The 61-year-old from Tettenhall retired after spending nearly 33 years driving the city's civic heeds to official arrangements.

ANGRY residents in Wolverhampton were left with mountains of uncollected rubbish after hundreds of wheeline bins were left unemptied for a second time in two weeks. Overflowing bins lined the streets around Penn as crews continued to struggle with the council's new scheme.

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Stourbridge & Surrounding Areas

Pages 22 to 28

LETTERS

Let people vote on theatre's future

SHAME on you Dudley Council. Over 100 people attended a public meeting to save Dudley Hippodrome on June 9, zero councillors attended.

I am disgusted with DMBC. I know several councillors are in favour of keeping the Hippodrome, but I cannot understand the others. I ask anyone to go to the Hippodrome, walk around it, and not be impressed.

It is magnificent. If you don't get a sense of pride you're probably not from the Black Country.

How could anyone look at the Hippo-

drome then give the order to knock it down?

What incentive is there to destroy one of the greatest buildings Dudley and the Black Country has ever had?

Why not ask the people to vote on the Hippodrome's future.

The answer is obvious - people would vote to save it. DMBC are not listening, or should I say keeping a low profile. I am disgusted with their behaviour.

This proposed destruction of our heritage has wrong written all over it.

If you are thinking regeneration

DMBC, think Hippodrome. I went to the Grand Theatre to see Ghost. It cost me five quid to park. Let's say just 100 cars parked at the rear of the Hippodrome. That would mean £500 just for that night. The Hippodrome might not be full every night, but let's say it's busy for half a year. That's £90,000. How much will the other closed Castle Hill venues bring into Dudley at night?

Garry Sawers,
(Black Country Gaz),
Avon Close,
Pensnett.

Motorists should try keeping eyes open

WHY don't drivers open their eyes when entering John Street, Brierley Hill, from the fire station end?

At least twice a week I am driving from my house up the street and I get shouted at by drivers, "IT'S ONE WAY".

John Street is only one way for a small section of the road.

You cannot turn into John Street from Bank Street, but you can drive both ways in the street up until the one-way sign.

If drivers opened their eyes when entering from the fire station end of the street they would see no one-way signs at all.

Oh, and please stop driving at 70mph down this street. You know who you are, would you drive like that in your own street?

Mr Hutchins,
John Street,
Brierley Hill.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

stourbridgechronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Visitors to garden were slow worms

FOUR weeks ago I was clearing a part of the garden that had not been disturbed for over three years. Amongst the articles moved were several large ceramic pots. As I moved the last but one pot I recoiled at the sight of what I thought was a snake.

It was in fact a slow worm. Pale in colour, but unmistakably a slow worm, not a small snake. Since then I have had two sightings of these creatures. One may have been the same one I had seen originally, but the other was much bigger.

I have been keeping an eye out for further sightings, but to no avail. But I have found strange markings in the soil and very small holes, holes which I had previously dismissed as small field mice holes, but on reflection they were far too small.

When I had a pond in the garden I found the discarded skins of grass snakes, and had newts visit, but never slow worms. I thought this most unusual and would be interested if anyone else has had similar experiences.

J D Clifford,
Himley.

Cost of the nanny party

NANNY Labour is alive and well in Dudley, and busy spending our money.

I have had a Dudley council employee at my door offering me a free pedometer, booklets on the best walks in the area, how to enjoy cycling, and how to get the best out of my car.

The same old Labour nanny dogma that got us into the present economic mess is alive and well and sitting in a council office in Dudley.

Alan M Etheridge,
Catholic Lane, Sedgley.

Praise for NHS

THE NHS receives a lot of negative press but I can only give a positive account of the way I was treated.

From my arrival at Russells Hall Hospital until my discharge two days later, and appointment with the fracture clinic, the standard of care was not only high but there was real commitment shown by all members of staff who appeared to be under an awful amount of pressure most of the time.

J M Taylor, Brierley Hill.

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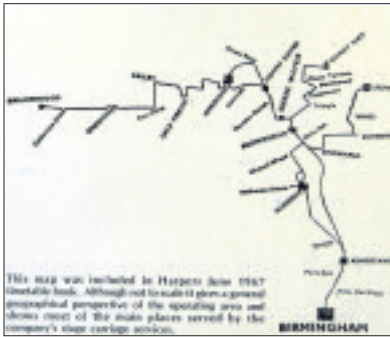
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MEMORY LANE



A picture from the 1960s of Harpers bus in Armitage Road, Rugeley



A map of the routes the Harpers bus used to take



A bus, date unknown, in a now pedestrianised area of Cannock town centre



Ex-driver Paul Roberts with his book on Harpers Buses

Ex-driver tells tale of his life on the buses

A BUS fanatic who gave up a career as a secondary school teacher to drive double-deckers is ensuring his passion lives on.

Paul Roberts has retained his love for Harpers buses and their distinctive green livery.

Once the biggest private bus operator in Staffordshire, the company put Heath Hayes on the map as bus enthusiasts from around the UK visited its headquarters.

Mr Roberts, aged 64, has now published a hardback history of Harpers featuring photographs he took during his years with the firm.

He was teaching science and geography at Springfield Secondary Boys School in Wolverhampton in 1970 when he applied to become

By Marion Brennan

a part-time bus conductor with Harpers to supplement his teaching salary. After a 10-minute interview, he was told to report for duty the next day to conduct on the Bishops Wood route. Three years later, he gave up teaching to go full-time.

"Some people like railways, I like buses," he said. "I left a good job but I loved buses so much, it wasn't a difficult decision. I never looked back after leaving teaching."

"It was like On The Buses at times. I remember one chap, who was a bit the worse for wear, losing his false teeth on a late-night bus to Aldridge."

"I loved being out on the road and that meant not only taking people to work and school but on days out and holidays because the company also operated tours to the

coast." The former Dudley College student, who lived in Paget Road, Wolverhampton, and Ajax Close, Great Wyrley, stayed with Harpers until it was taken over by Midland Red in 1974 and continued under the new operator until his wife's job took them to Leicester in 1986.

The book focuses on the different buses and the routes covered, with a section devoted to the farewell trip and the early years under Midland Red, forerunner to Arriva.

Harpers won the right to operate buses into Birmingham in 1965. From Bishops Wood, the route went through Brewwood, Gailey, Cannock, Heath Hayes, Chasewater, Brownhills and Aldridge. Some buses also went to Boney Hay and Lichfield.

The book is printed by Irwell Press who can be contacted on 01525 876888.



The no. 28 make its way along Gentleshaw Hill, Cannock Chase



A bus going under the Handsacre railway bridge back in 1972

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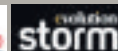
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NEWS

Respected councillor is buried on his birthday

A thousand fish saved



Hundreds of fish are moved to a safer stretch of the canal. Picture supplied by the Environment Agency

THREE hundred fish were killed but more than a thousand were saved after contaminated water from a major blaze at a nearby recycling plant in Kidderminster drained into a canal.

The Environment Agency has been pumping oxygen into the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal after levels dropped to one per cent

near the fire at Lawrence Recycling in Stourport Road.

Officials have also caught 300 suffocating fish, which rely on water oxygen levels of up to 60 per cent, from the York Street Lock in Stourport and moved them from the affected 2km stretch.

Monitoring of the stretch is continuing.

TRIBUTES have been paid to a long-serving Dudley councillor at his funeral, on what would have been his 76th birthday.

Farewells were said to George Davies by hundreds of mourners, including councillors, mayors and MPs, at Coseley's St Chad's Church yesterday.

Among the mourners was Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Coseley councillor Melvyn Mottram, who both read eulogies.

Mr Austin, who had been friends with Councillor Davies for 25 years, said: "He was a huge figure in his ward and helped thousands of families over the years."

"He represented Coseley with great pride and passion. He loved Coseley, he loved the people who lived here and worked so hard on their behalf."

"I remember persuading him to have an answerphone so he and his family didn't have to deal with everything but he always ignored it and picked the phone up anyway."

"I learned so much from George as a young councillor - the hours spent talking about the council or politics. He also made a huge contribution to the fire authority."

"He was known throughout the council as an honest politician, a dedicated socialist and a man of legendary courage."

Councillor Mottram said: "George was a truly great man. He was a very friendly person and had friends from both sides of the chamber."

"He was hugely respected and held in high esteem. Politics ran in his veins. George said things as they were and pulled no punches. He treated everyone the same."

Councillor Davies, who represented Coseley over five decades, leaves his wife Joyce, three children, seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

New choir is open to all

A NEW choir aimed at bringing people of all ages and background together has been launched in Sedgley. The Beacon community choir meets on Sunday evenings at Sedgley Community Church at 7.30pm.

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Whole Grass Fed Rib Eyes	£6.99 lb = £15.41 kilo
Whole Grass Fed Sirloins	£6.99 lb = £15.41 kilo
Whole Fresh rumps Beef	£4.89 lb = £10.34 kilo
5lb Fresh Spring Lamb Chops	£3.59 lb = £7.91 kilo
5lb Fresh Shin Beef	£2.89 lb = £6.37 kilo
5 x 1lb Pks Black Angus Minced Beef	£2.89 lb = £6.37 kilo
Whole Boneless Pork Legs.....	£1.49 lb = £3.26 kilo
5lb Packs Mild Cured Short Back Bacon	£8.49 per pack
Whole Horse Shoe Gammon	£1.89 lb = £4.16 kilo
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Health on menu for pupils' show

COOKING, growing vegetables and salad and healthy eating were the themes of a Kidderminster school's food and garden show.

Franchise Community Primary, Chestnut Grove, held the event which included a Masterchef style event for its pupils. Children competed with healthy snacks, sandwiches or salad creations and a pupil from each year group took to the stage for a cook-off. Matt Nicholls, a chef from University Catering College Birmingham, chose winners Olivia Atherton for KS2 and Rosie Newman for KS1.

Specialist firm enjoys boom after series of export deals



Sales director Ian Perks

A DUDLEY business is booming thanks to an order it has just won from South Korea.

The latest contract is just one of a string of export orders landed by Alloy Heat Treatment in the last six months.

The firm, which specialises in heat treatment of aluminium alloys, has been going for 40 years and has been at the Grazebrook Industrial Park in Peartree Lane for more than a quarter of a century.

Heat treatment is traditionally considered to be a domestic service.

Firms can be put off from shipping components long distances to be treated at the final stage of the production process.

But the specialised work of AHT has seen interest and orders from customers in France, Germany, Italy, Poland and now South Korea.

The company has made its name as the largest sub-contractor for aluminium heat treatments in the UK and has

attracted up to 15 international clients from all over the world in the past 18 months.

The firm's expertise is complemented by its National Aerospace and Defence Contractors Accreditation programme merit status.

Concentrating

Director of sales, Ian Perks, said: "We have had a NADCAP accreditation since 2004.

"Concentrating our efforts very strongly on maintaining it and gaining the merit status last

year has led to us increase the potential customer base we are able to tap into.

"We are also listed on approved supplier lists of prime contractors."

He added: "If export activities continue the way they have been, we are looking at a very successful year for Alloy Heat Treatment."

Plus, we also have a couple of big investments in the pipeline which will enable us to support our ever growing customer base."

Ex-teacher is to stand for Labour

A FORMER school teacher from Cradley Heath has been selected as the Labour Parliamentary candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis.

Stephanie Peacock, aged 26 now works for the GMB union in Halesowen and before that she was a history teacher.

Before training to be a teacher she worked for the previous Labour MP Sylvia Heal.

Her family live in Blackheath, her father works in a care home and her mother in the NHS.

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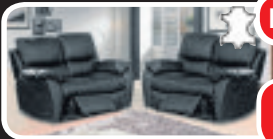


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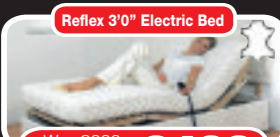


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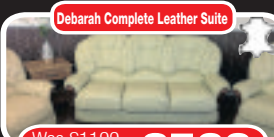


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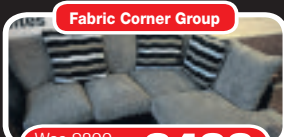


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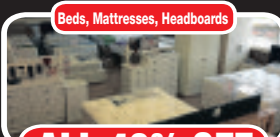


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TUC's national bus tour comes to town



Rosa Crawford of the TUC with the austerity bus in Dudley town centre before the start of the tour

THE Trades Union Congress spoke to workers and families in Dudley at the launch of a nationwide bus tour to highlight the impact of the Government's austerity programme.

The white and red double-decker set off from the town and will visit other towns and cities across the country until the end of the month.

TUC representatives spoke to people in Dudley Market Square about how they had been affected by policies such as the so-called bedroom tax.

Three students from Dudley College performed music and talked about the difficult job market facing young people.

Members of the public

wrote messages to Prime Minister David Cameron and Chancellor George Osborne.

TUC spokesman Rob Holdsworth said: "The people of Dudley were very friendly and didn't hold back in offering their views on the impact of austerity."

"No-one I spoke to felt that things were on the up. Many people had lost full-time jobs and were now doing part-time jobs to get by."

"There is a lot of talk at the moment about Britain's economic recovery. I'm suspicious about how real this so-called recovery really is to ordinary people and it certainly hasn't reached Dudley yet."

Safari Park is to star in BBC drama

TV stars have descended on West Midlands Safari Park as the tourist attraction is being used in the filming of a new crime drama.

The park's Spring Grove House, which is used as a wedding and conference venue, has been transformed to look like the interior of a Colombian Embassy for new BBC series *By Any Means*.

Filming is currently taking place at the Bewdley venue for the drama, which features Gina McKee, star of *Our Friends in the North*, *The Borgias* and *In The Loop*, and Warren Brown of *Luther* and *Good Cop* fame.

Shelley Conn, known best for her role in *Marchand*, and Andrew Lee Potts, of *Primeval* and *Ideal* also star in the series, which has been created by a team led by Tony Jordan, writer of hit shows *Hustle* and *Life On Mars*.

By Any Means follows a clandestine group living on the edge of the law and playing the criminal elite at their own game.

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NEWS

Football plan given the go-ahead despite fears

A £1 MILLION football complex earmarked for playing fields in Dudley has been given the go-ahead, despite concerns raised by residents.

An all-weather flood-lit pitch and a challenge course is planned as the next phase of Dudley College's town centre learning quarter.

There will be changing facilities and parking and it will be open to students, schools and the community.

The complex will be built to Football Association standards on playing fields next to Castle High School, Priory Road.

But the proposals have proved unpopular with people living nearby who fear their peace and quiet will be disturbed.

About 10 households raised objections.

Guarantee

They were also worried about potential light pollution from the floodlights which will be installed and an increase in traffic.

But Dudley Council planners recommended the proposals to councillors, and the plans were approved at a meeting this week.

College principal Lowell Williams said: "Working closely with Dudley Council, we have also agreed a usage plan to guarantee the facility will not cause any unnecessary disruption."

"The benefits the new football facility will bring to the town and local community are immense."

Watery beauty spot trip

PEOPLE can take a ride along the Black Country waterways on a trip organised from a well-known beauty spot.

Members of the Bumble Hole conservation group are hosting the event from the Dudley nature reserve on July 30.

The trip starts at 10.30am from the Park Head Junction. People are asked to meet at the Bumble Hole Visitors Centre, Dudley. To book call 01384 814100.

New chapter for toy library



Marc Carter, Joy Clarke and Rachael Gardner from Insight to Carers, which has taken over the Phoenix Castle Mobile Toy Library

A VOLUNTEER-RUN service that provides toys and games for children in Dudley has been saved from the axe at the 11th hour after a charity stepped in to take it over.

The Phoenix Castle Mobile Toy Library, which is run by 20 volunteers, was due to close down, two years after losing £23,000 of vital funding from Dudley Council.

But bosses at the Brierley Hill-based Insight for Carers charity have announced they will be taking over the service which helps dozens of families in the borough.

The library lends hundreds of games and toys to children with disabilities and special needs in Dudley borough each year.

Volunteers take toys out to fami-

lies' homes in their own van, lending the items for as long as they are needed.

It has operated for around 40 years and is believed to be the oldest of its kind in the country.

Insight chief executive Marc Carter said when he heard the toy library was struggling to survive he decided to step in to help. "This has been an invaluable service in the area for many years and we just couldn't see it close," he said. "Too many children would lose out."

He said the service will be renamed the CHAOS! Toy Library and hopes to expand on the 30 families it currently supports.

Carers wanting to talk to Insight can call 01384 483708.

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NEWS



James and Rachel Casey celebrate their Employer Excellence Star award at The Waggon & Horses with, from left Jack Lewis, Dean Green and Nigel Cook

Pub shows star quality on training apprentices

YOUNG people have been getting an early taste of working life at a pub in the Midlands.

The Old Waggon & Horses, in Stourbridge Road, Ismere, employs two apprentice chefs and one apprentice barman.

Jack Lewis, aged 18, and Dean Green, 17, are in the kitchen, while Jason Lloyd, 22, is behind the bar.

The pub is employing the learners to assist their training. They work at the pub alongside training at college.

This month, the pub won an Employer Excellence Star for its work

with the apprentices at an awards ceremony held by Birmingham Metropolitan College.

Other companies to have won the award include BMW and Caterpillar.

Confidence

Front of house manager at the pub, Ann Underhill, said: "The work here does them all the good. They get to work alongside others, learn off them and grow in confidence. They also bring enthusiasm to the pub."

Mr Green works at the pub while also studying maths and English at Birmingham and Metropolitan College in Kidderminster. The pub was his

third application for work, and he joined in February.

He said: "I was really happy to get it – not everyone my age gets the opportunity to work as a chef. You get the chance here to learn while you get paid, it is more practical and better than being just stuck in class."

Jack Lewis receives visits during his apprenticeship at the pub from tutors at Stourbridge College.

He joined three weeks ago. He said: "I'm enjoying the chance to be working in the kitchen at my age."

"You get the responsibility, which is only good for experience and confidence."

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NEWS

Boss of JB's is to appeal after plans are rejected

Pedal power for Ella-Blu



Ella-Blu Williams with her new trike bought with the help of Alder Coppice Primary School, Sedgley. With Ella, from left, are her mother Kerrie Clarke, teaching assistant Julie Corns and teacher Ceri Cowley. SEDGLEY youngsters and their parents have rallied round to make sure disabled five-year-old Ella-Blu Williams can have a tricycle. Ella-Blu Williams, who has cerebral palsy and has difficulty in walking, wanted to be able to ride a bike, just like all her chums. Generous pupils, parents and staff at Alder Coppice Primary School in

Northway, Sedgley, raised £1,000 for Ella-Blu. She can have a specially adapted trike, and there is £700 left over for other items she might need. Ella-Blu's mother Kerrie Clarke, of Northway, said: "The other kids at Alder Coppice are brilliant with her - they really look after her. It's absolutely fantastic they have raised all this money to help her."

AN APPEAL has been lodged by the boss of Dudley's revamped JB's nightclub after plans to host conferences and banquets there were thrown out.

Dudley Council planners refused the retrospective application earlier this year for a change of use for the nightclub because of parking concerns.

JB's owner Ramesh Ahir confirmed he had appealed against the decision. The outcome is expected in October.

He had hoped that people going to his venue would be able to use Dudley Zoo's private car park.

But the zoo's chief executive Peter Suddock objected, saying the club would not be allowed to use the car park. He said it was strictly for use of zoo customers and had restricted opening hours.

Planning officers, in a report announcing the decision on JB's plans, said the continued use of the venue for a mix of uses including a nightclub, banqueting suite and conference facilities, would raise 'significant highway safety concerns'. It was a retrospective application because the venue has operated as a banqueting centre since it reopened in September 2012.

Nuisance

In a letter to the Planning Inspectorate which rules on planning appeals, Mr Ahir said there were other long and short term parking spaces available in Dudley town centre, which his patrons could use.

He said: "There is no evidence to suggest patrons have caused nuisance on any surrounding roads during the banqueting use of the premises. The highway concerns have not been realised."

Planning Inspectorate spokesman Peter Rickett said the appeal would not require a hearing and would be dealt with through 'written representations'.

"We would anticipate a decision to be made by October," he said.

Mr Ahir reopened the former rock music venue last year after a six-figure revamp.

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NEWS

School celebrates after winning Ofsted praise

PUPILS and staff at a village school near Stourbridge are celebrating after a dramatic turnaround in its Ofsted rating from needing improvement to 'good'.

Just a year ago, inspectors found that Clent Parochial Primary School, in Holy Cross, Clent, needed 'significant' improvement to bring about rapid change to teaching in maths.

The latest report follows exceptional standard assessment test (SATs) results, where the school achieved the joint highest rate of progress for Key Stage Two in Worcestershire.

The Ofsted report states: "This is a good school. Leadership and management, including that of the governing body, are good. The head teacher has built a dedicated team whose members aspire to drive forward further improvement."

Head Christian Hamilton said: "We have focused on improving standards of learning and teaching, which has made a significant impact upon achievement, as well as constantly managing the progress of the children, and making sure those standards are maintained."

Chairman of governors Sarah Pearson said: "As a governor and parent I owe him, his excellent staff, my fellow governors and our enormously supportive parents a huge debt of gratitude."

"I am extremely proud of Clent School and our wonderful children."

Company raises £25,000

A TRAVEL company in Halesowen has raised more than £25,000 for a children's charity. Acorn Venture in Prospect Road, has handed over the cash to Action for Children. The money was raised from customer donations and takes the total amount donated from the company to the charity over the past ten years to almost £130,000.

The company organises adventure and educational trips for schools, youth groups and families in the UK.

Show for summer nights



Bottom, from left to right, Alex Lloyd, Rhianon Luckins, Katelyn Laws, Emily Portch and Sebastian Robins with, at the top, Jen Laws, Richard Hall, Adam Smith, Mike Astley and Nora Blakeway as they prepare for Grease at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

GREASE is the word for a musical theatre group preparing to go back to high school for their latest show.

Young stars of Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company are busy in rehearsals for their own version of hit film musical Grease next month.

Performers are rehearsing as T Birds and Pink Ladies to their heroes John Travolta and Olivia Newton John.

The show will be at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, on July 19 and 20. Shows on both nights start at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinee on

the Saturday. The company, which has around 100 members, stages four shows a year, including an annual pantomime and West End concert.

Young actors from the company's youth group, aged from nine to 21, are taking part in the production of Grease.

Many have been picking up their own accessories to personalise their outfits and have promised bright costumes to dazzle the audience come opening night. Parents have also been mucking in.

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Temporary car parking is available

TEMPORARY parking is being created for motorists visiting Haden Hill Leisure Centre while a new car park is being built.

Construction on a new fire station for Cradley Heath and Halesowen is starting, along with the new car park, on the site of the old Municipal Buildings.

People can now park at Haden Hill House in Haden Hill Park, and at Old Hill Tennis Club, Monday to Friday 4pm-10pm, Saturdays 8am-1pm subject to events, and all day Sundays, also subject to events.

Laser combat zone is zapped by landlord's decision to sell

A LASER COMBAT zone that attracts around 6,000 youngsters a year faces the axe, after the business and three other companies were given their marching orders by their landlord.

The businesses, which employ a total of about 30 people, are at the former Bronx factory site at the junction of Thorns Road and Dudley Road, Lye.

The land owners plan to flatten

the site so it can be sold. Given notice to quit by July 31 are laser combat centre Battle Storm HQ, its parent company Momentum Ltd, manufacturing company Bradbury International UK, and Triple C Costume Hire.

Momentum, which makes the laser equipment used by Battle Storm HQ, is hoping to find alternative premises. But Battle Storm is unlikely to be able to find other premises big enough, so five of its six workers will lose their jobs.

"It's a complete blow," said

manager Helen Morris, the only member of staff to keep her job as she also works for Momentum.

"Despite being hugely popular with the public, we are being forced to close due to the landlord demolishing the building and forcing us, and other tenants, out."

"There is very little protection for businesses suffering from such decisions by landlords."

Miss Morris, daughter of Momentum director David Morris, said that in October, the companies were given six months' notice to

leave which was extended to July 31.

"We're desperately trying to find other premises for Momentum, which employs five of us, but there is little chance we would find anywhere big enough for Battle Storm HQ," she added.

Bradbury International UK and Triple C Costume Hire have plans to move elsewhere.

John Clarkson Hodgson, director of Clarkson Properties, which owns the site, declined to comment.



Manager Helen Morris

Award joy for staff at skills centre

A PROJECT to get young people into training and work has been praised after scooping a top award.

The Skills Centre, run by Walsall Housing Group, has helped 51 people aged 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 on to apprenticeships and offers training in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and other skills.

It was given the large pre-apprenticeship employer gong at the Walsall Works Celebration Awards.

The Skills Centre is working with 61 apprentices in a variety of trades and has helped 1,500 young people since its launch 10 years ago.

Teams plot route to honour Christina



From left, Holly Lewis, Lauren Lewis, Catherine Bailey, and Harry Kingston prepare for their task with Harlequins Orienteering Club members Sebastian Mitchell, Alex Mitchell and Arthur Mitchell

A HUNDRED days after her tragic death, dozens of people joined in an orienteering task in memory of schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

About 40 people plotted their way around The Leasowes park as part of the event at the weekend.

And the money they paid to enter went to a Christina memorial fund.

The popular 16-year-old died after being stabbed on a bus on her way from Birmingham to Leasowes High School in March.

Community

The event was organised by Harlequins Orienteering Club, which holds orienteering events each month at parks across the West Midlands.

Organiser Adrian Bailey, who used to teach French and German at Leasowes High School, said: "Christina's death shook the whole community here, everyone was impacted by it



Popular Christina Edkins who was stabbed on a bus and many people want to pay respects to her.

"It seemed a good idea to use our monthly orienteering event to raise cash for her memorial fund."

The teams were tasked with finding points in the park before returning to base.

About £50 was raised.

Rise predicted for number in work

EMPLOYMENT will rise in the West Midlands over the next five years, as private sector job creation overtakes a slide in the number of people working in the public sector, a study has suggested.

Job cuts at local councils, quangos and other public sector areas are likely to hit 74,000 by 2018 as a result of the Government's spending squeeze, says professional services firm PwC.

But it predicts 135,000 jobs will be created by new and existing businesses in the region, giving the West Midlands an overall increase of 2.5 per cent over the next five years.

Mark Smith, regional chairman at PwC in Birmingham, said: "The West Midlands economy is resilient and has been responding well to the economic situation. We have seen good growth in some areas of the private sector, which is boosting job prospects locally."

"In particular, businesses that have achieved strong growth as a result of their exporting activity are having a positive impact on companies in the local supply chain and to some extent this is helping to offset job losses in the public sector."

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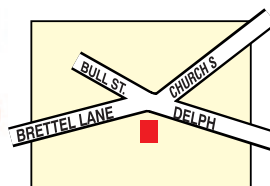
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CLUB NEWS

Scramble to hear speaker

GRANGE 'E' GUILD

THE monthly meeting of Grange 'E' guild was held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on June 4, with chairman Hazel Smith presiding.

All minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

Jill Attwood informed members the birthday meal was due to be held at the Vine Inn, Clent, on Tuesday. Marlene O'Hanlon reported that the luncheon club had got off to a good start and hoped that it would become a regular monthly event.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mrs Prosser, who gave a enlightening talk entitled One egg or two? She told us that as a child she was brought up on a farm and eventually married a farmer and ran their own farm.

A vote of thanks was given by chairman Hazel Smith on the guild's behalf.

The raffle was drawn and six lucky members won prize.

The next meeting will be held at Grange Court on July 2.

The speaker will be Patricia Boyd, who will be giving a talk entitled What the butler saw.

The guild is still recruiting for new members.

Anyone interested in joining please come along to one of the meetings as a guest.

You will receive a friendly welcome.

For further information please contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

Local knowledge test for members



Members are welcomed to the Tudor Tea Rooms during their visit to Lichfield

FOR our April meeting we were entertained by Maureen and John Harper, who bought along a quiz with slide show and music. It was based on a variety of buildings, historic houses and churches in villages and towns throughout Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Staffordshire and we had to guess where they were.

On the whole, we did quite well with our local history.

In May we went on a trip to Lichfield and started with a visit to the Tudor Tea Rooms for morning refreshments before wandering around the farmers market, shops, passage ways and the cathedral.

For our June meeting, Pete Moodie, from

SEDGLEY MORNING TWG

the Beacon Centre for the Blind, explained the role the centre has in helping local people with sight loss lead active lives. The new centre which opened in 2009 is divided between residential accommodation and the activity centre for day visitors with a restaurant and classes in cane work, pottery, music, IT and much more.

The centre also advises on aids to help in managing the day-to-day living such as talking clock, watch and calculator also a device to indicate the contents of food tins and to measure the level of liquid in a cup.

Quiz proves close-run event

WEST Midlands Federation of Townswomen held the guild quiz at Stourbridge Football Club on June 3.

The question master was Russ Johnson assisted by his nephew Alex who kept the scores up to date.

Following a close competition, Oldswinford were declared the winners with 89 points, Kingswinford, a close

WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION OF TOWNSWOMEN

2nd with 88 points and Norton 3rd with 83 points. Prizes were awarded to first and second teams only.

Chairman Margaret Brookes congratulated the two winning teams and presented the prizes to all the team members. Thanks

were given to Jean Williams for organising the event and to Russ and Alex for a very enjoyable evening.

Thanks were also given to bar stewards Steve and Sharon who kept us supplied with drinks throughout the evening.

The annual luncheon will be held at the Mill Hotel, Alveley, on July 29.

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Denture troubles? Unable to live life spontaneously?

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THERE'S seemingly an impossible amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are increasingly being thrown together at a ground-breaking Dudley clinic.

Under the watchful eye of dentist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), founder of the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, hi-spec prescriptions are helping turn back the hands of time.

Recently, the practice has undergone a major refurbishment, with three disciples - general dentistry (North Street Dental), implantology (Total Implant Solutions) and the prescribing and manufacturing of dentures (Denture Clinic) all under one roof.

Key to a £1m investment are two new ground-floor surgeries, an level main entrance at the rear, disabled-friendly facilities and a large car park with a drop-off point right outside the reception area. A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth."

He is evangelical about what new generation dentures can achieve.

"Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic



makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes.

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary

salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, handcrafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

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Steven Burchell
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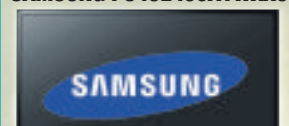
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Wollaston Fish Bar has been an established part of our community for more than 37 years now and we look forward to continuing to offer great value, quality food and friendly service to our customers for many more years.

Thank you and see you soon.
Regards Loucas & Sarah Partali and the team at Wollaston Fish Bar

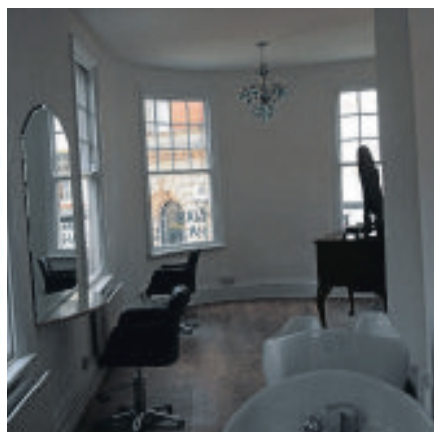
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www.wollastonfishbar.co.uk

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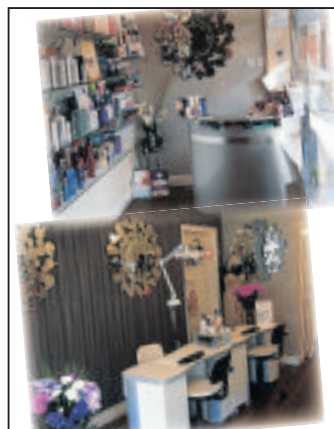
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Pedmore Beauty Rooms is a luxurious Elemis Beauty Salon based in Chawn Park Drive, Pedmore. We aim to offer the best beauty treatments in luxurious surroundings, but at an affordable cost to everyone. All staff are Elemis trained and very experienced in all aspects of beauty and aim to offer a relaxed informal atmosphere. New products are always being added to our treatment list and we are proud to say Pedmore Beauty Rooms has been recognised as one of the best businesses locally and are part of 'The Best of Stourbridge' offering the best services to local people. We are open late Thursday and Friday and there is Free Parking at any time.

54 Chawn Park Drive, Stourbridge

01384 395535



STOURBRIDGE NAIL STUDIO

Stourbridge Nail Studio situated in Clifton Street in the established 'Old Quarter' aims to offer the best customer service to all clients, whilst using only the best available premium nail products in today's ever expanding market. All staff are highly trained and fully qualified and we pride ourselves in offering a relaxed, friendly and professional environment. Stourbridge Nail Studio is also part of The Best of Stourbridge, and has been recognised as one of the best Nail Salons in Stourbridge and the surrounding areas. There is ample free parking and we are open six days a week with two late nights, Thursday and Friday.

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Waiting lists get longer for local charity



Stourbridge, Dudley and Wyre Forest branch of Cats Protection, have reported that due to the continuing recession, it's waiting lists to rehome cats has reached crisis levels!

Stourbridge branch is powerless to help them all, because it's already stretched to the limit, with the resources available.

Pauline Hollyoak volunteer branch co-ordinator said "Recently there has been a surge in people reporting unwanted cats to us, ranging from stray cats to owners who have lost their jobs, and can no longer afford to keep their cats, which is extremely sad."

Jessie, pictured is a victim of the recession, and has been with us for a while looking for a new home, she would be a fabulous and loving addition to any family.

STOURBRIDGECATS.ORG.UK

Stourbridge & District Branch



We currently have many cats, kittens and rabbits in our care that are looking for their forever homes. If you are able to offer a loving home then please visit our website for further details:

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Visit the website: <http://midlands.pals4pets.co.uk/>

01384-820201

Email: paulandjan@pals4pets.co.uk



Find us on:



Clent Hills Veterinary Group is a long established practice founded in 1996. The group has expanded yet maintained the traditional values of high quality animal care, compassion & kindness throughout the years of growth & development.

The practice has an Equine branch located in Blakedown, a branch in Hagley & the Bromsgrove branch of the surgery has recently opened at its new premises on the site of the old St Johns Doctors surgery, Kidderminster Road. The surgery has been completely re-designed & purpose built to create the modern, bright practice with extensive new facilities and the latest available equipment.

Clent Hills Veterinary Group runs monthly special offers for its clients. They have an up to date website where practice cat Georgina keeps a diary of offers, events & news - www.clenthillsvetgroup.co.uk



5 Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove B61 7JJ 01527 889810

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All you need to know about... your **Local Business** in the community



It's time to turn back to the trusted local butchers. Crown Butchers in Market Street, Stourbridge not only serves locally sourced meats of high quality, they can also give fantastic advice on a range of tastes that will certainly get your taste buds sizzling this summer.

Whether it's a joint for Sunday lunch, a mouth watering steak, a selection of items for the BBQ or a delicious snack or pork pie, Crown really does offer it all; and it's no wonder they have queues out of the door most days. Not stopping at this, Nigel and his team boast a 5/5 health & hygiene rating from the council, proving to all its customers quality, service and standards are second to none!

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Tel: 01384 441311

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Ovenu, the Stourbridge-based oven cleaning and valeting business, is celebrating after completing its 500th oven clean.



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For more information about Ovenu, or to make a booking with Craig,

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Ovenu is the leading UK and international domestic oven cleaning specialist.

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What's On! *Stourbridge*

Songwriters in concert to help autism charity



Singer Dale Hanson, of Damn The Weather

SONGWRITERS will be picking up the microphone for a night of live music in Bloxwich to raise cash for charity.

Music lovers can head to Bookmark Bloxwich, in Elmore Row, on July 6, for a special Songwriters Night.

Money raised will go to young people's autism charity Kidzlikedanny.

Canadian country singer and songwriter Chuck Micallef will be performing and will compere the show alongside songwriter and comedian Tony Barrett.

Mod-influenced singer and songwriter Dale Hanson and singer Matt Tyler will also be on the bill.

For tickets call 01922 655900.

Second city swings to the many varied sounds of jazz

BIRMINGHAM Jazz and Blues Festival is back to bring the many and varied sounds of jazz to the second city with some 150 international acts performing at more than 80 venues – and most of the gigs will be free

Young blues star in gig

AWARD-WINNING blues singer and guitarist Chantel McGregor is in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Wednesday, July 3.

Chantel was voted Young Musician of the Year in the British Blues Awards 2011, Female Vocalist of the Year the following year and has been nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year and Guitarist of the Year in 2013.

She has jammed on stage with guitar legend Joe Bonamassa on two of his tours and won acclaim in her own right as a formidable guitar player, talented singer-songwriter and exciting live performer.

Tickets cost £11 in advance or £13 on the door. Call 01902 401211

With 200 gigs taking place between Friday, July 5, and Sunday, July 14, there is plenty of music to appreciate. Some of the artists to watch out for include acclaimed violinist Tim Kihphuis from Holland, young Lithuanian band Sheep Got Waxed, Canadian singer Melissa Lauren, Chicago-born but Brum-based singer Bobby Woods, Spain's Potato Head Jazz Band and Irish singer-songwriter Grainne Duffy.

Old favourite include the Black Country's jump jive veterans King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, Steve Gibbons Band, Old Hill rock and roller Ricky Cool, Val Wiseman, trombonist Roy Williams and festival patron Digby Fairweather with his quartet.

The British Jazz Awards return to their home city at St Paul's Church in the Jewellery Quarter on July 10.

See www.birminghamjazzfestival.com for details.



He just can't wait to be king – Nicolas Nkuna playing Simba in The Lion King

Lion King roars in for summer

DISNEY'S The Lion King is one of the biggest productions to be staged at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Due to its spectacular costumes, puppets and scenery, it takes a convoy of 23 45ft-long trailers to transport The Lion King from one city to the next on its UK tour.

The Lion King, adapted for the stage from the hit animated movie, comes to the Hippodrome on June 29 and runs for almost three months, to September 28.

The award-winning musical by Elton John and Tim Rice employs 150 people and 40 are local. There are 50 performers from 17 countries, supported by a backstage team of over 100. More than 25 different types of animal are represented in the show which opens with hit song Circle of Life.

REVIEW

Giselle, Birmingham Royal Ballet
THE Birmingham Royal Ballet must surely be the best in the world as their current interpretation of the classic, Giselle, at the Birmingham Hippodrome, demonstrates.

The audience was treated to a delight of stunning scenery, breathtaking technique and exquisite choreography, perfectly relaying the story of the beautiful Giselle, who is driven to take her own life for the sake of love.

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia, under the instruction of musical director Koen Kessels, radiates spectacularly throughout the theatre, transporting you straight into this enchanting tale and then on to a magical journey through dance.

Emotional

Close your eyes and every note rings clear as a bell.

The coupling of Jenna Roberts in the title role and Iain MacKay as Count Albrecht is very special indeed, as they effortlessly glide together with grace and poise, performing exceptionally strong lifts and displaying an obvious emotional connection.

One of the highlights of the production is a long series of sharp entrechats, executed with ease by Mr MacKay.

The couple's performance provoked impromptu bursts of applause.

Alison Norton

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 29.06.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



John Inverdale

Today at Wimbledon
BBC2, 8pm

John Inverdale presents action and reaction from the sixth day's play at the All England Club, focusing on the scheduled conclusion of the men's and ladies' third-round singles. The top seeds had things pretty much their own way on day six last year, with the likes of Juan Martin del Potro, Serena Williams, Andy Murray and Petra Kvitová all progressing to the fourth round. Despite a relatively wet beginning to the tournament, the schedule was back on track by this point in 2012, with all of the third-round singles matches completed.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix - Qualifying. **2.20** Wimbledon 2013. **6.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.30** **Celebrity Mastermind**. With Sarah Storey, Nihal Arthanayake, Dan Walker and Martin Lewis. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** **Pointless Celebrities**. One-time soap stars take part, including former EastEnders actors Dean Gaffney and John Altman, and Coronation Street's Ken Morley and Steven Arnold. (R) **7.50** **The National Lottery: In It to Win It**. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize, including the National Lottery draws, presented by John Partridge. **8.40** **Casualty**. Tom and Sam clash over the best course of action for a mother who can no longer cope with looking after her autistic son, and Ash's tearaway daughter Ella causes more trouble. **9.30** BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. **9.50** **Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance**. (1995) New York cop John McClane pursues a terrorist threatening to set off a series of bombs around the city. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Irons. **11.50** **Film: Tombstone**. (1993) Western, with Kurt Russell. **1.50** Weatherview. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **6.40** Formula 1: British Grand Prix - Practice One. **8.15** Formula 1: British Grand Prix - Practice Two. **9.55** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix - Practice Three. **11.05** Wimbledon 2013. **4.00** Glastonbury 2013. **6.00** **Wimbledon 2013**. Further live coverage of the sixth day's play at the All England Club, where, weather permitting, the line-ups for the men's and ladies' fourth-round singles are set to be decided. **8.00** **Today at Wimbledon**. John Inverdale presents action and reaction from the sixth day's play at the All England Club, focusing on the scheduled conclusion of the men's and ladies' third-round singles. **9.00** **01**. Guests Robert Webb, Phil Jupitus, Ronni Ancona and regular panellist Alan Davies join host Stephen Fry, who asks questions about hypnosis, hallucinations and hysteria. (R) **9.30** **Mock the Week**. Gary Delaney, Holly Walsh and Josh Widdicombe join regulars Chris Addison, Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. (R) **10.00** **What a Load of Buzzcocks**. Music news stories and highlights of the comedy quiz from 2005. (R) **10.30** **Glastonbury 2013**. Lauren Laverne, Mark Radcliffe and Jo Whaley present coverage of the festival, headlined tonight by the Rolling Stones. Plus, highlights of Elvis Costello and Primal Scream. **2.00** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.40** Poppy Cat. **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.00** Gravity Falls. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.20** Saturday Farm. **12.20** River Monsters. (R) **1.20** **Film: Holiday on the Buses**. (1973) **3.00** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.00** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Comical clips, including a dog-versus-crocodile showdown. (R) **7.00** **You've Been Framed!** Humorous footage, including a skateboarding Santa Claus. **7.30** **Your Face Sounds Familiar**. New series. Alesha Dixon and Paddy McGuinness host a live entertainment show in which six celebrities impersonate randomly selected music icons in a bid to win money for charity. **8.45** **All Star Family Fortunes**. New series. Casualty's Patrick Robinson and Big Brother's Bit on the Side co-host Ryan Clark team up with their families to win money for charity. **9.45** **The Americans**. The Jennings try to defeat a new FBI surveillance system. **10.30** **ITV News**; Weather. **10.45** **Film: Space Cowboys**. (2000) Adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** VW Racing Cup. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Heston's Fantastical Food. (R) **1.35** Channel 4 Racing. **4.20** IPC Athletics Grand Prix Final. **6.30** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Come Dine with Me**. A week of dinner parties in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, featuring an American-themed evening, a Wild West-style bash and unusual delicacies including ostrich egg and pig's ears. (R) **8.00** **Grand Designs**. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of south London couple Mary Martin and Carl Turner, who want to build a home that resembles a giant stack of glass cubes. (R) **9.00** **The Million Pound Drop Live**. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants are challenged to place large quantities of cash over trapdoors as they face a series of questions. **10.30** **Film: Patriot Games**. (1992) Former CIA agent Jack Ryan foils an assassination attempt by an IRA splinter group, killing one of the terrorists in the process. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford, Sean Bean, Samuel L. Jackson, Richard Harris and James Earl Jones. **12.50** Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **1.35** Just Around the Corner. (R) **2.05** The Million Pound Drop Live. (R) **3.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** ThunderCats. (R) **11.00** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.30** Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.55** CSI: NY. (R) **1.40** CSI: NY. (R) **2.30** **Film: Gold**. (1974) **4.50** **Film: Zulu Dawn**. (1979) **7.00** **5 News Weekend**. **7.10** **The CSI Movie: Crisis**. A government weapons truck is hijacked as part of a plan to allow a criminal to escape from jail. Feature-length episode of the crime drama, starring David Caruso. **8.45** **Big Brother**. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the second eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants. **10.00** **Big Brother's Bit on the Psych**. AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of psychologists and celebrity fans to analyse the housemates' behaviour. **11.00** **The Walking Dead**. New series. A prison provides an opportunity for the survivors to establish a new base camp, but they find it is not uninhabited. Post-apocalyptic drama, with Andrew Lincoln. **11.55** **Inside Hollywood**. Magazine show, with location reports, showbusiness news and views from behind the scenes in Tinseltown. Presented by Mark Morris. **12.00** **SuperCasino**. **4.00** **Michael's Wild Challenge**. (R) **4.25** **Make It Big**. (R) **4.50** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.10** **Hana's Helpline**. (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.25** **The Funky Valley Show**. (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R) **5.50** **Hana's Helpline**. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Laura Mvula & Noah and the Whale @ Glastonbury **8.00** Ben Howard & Maverick Sabre @ Glastonbury **9.00** Two Door Cinema Club & Example @ Glastonbury **10.30** Chase & Status Live @ Glastonbury **BBC Four** **7.00** Heritage! The Battle for Britain's Past **8.00** Oceans **9.00** Wallander: The Fifth Woman **10.55** Glastonbury: Public Enemy **ITV2** **4.30** **Film: Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones** (2002) **7.15** **Film: The Scorpion King** (2002) **9.00** **Film: Pitch Black** (2000) **11.15** **Film: Lemon La Vida Loca** **11.55** **Film: 300** (2006) **ITV3** **3.10** **Film: Murder, She Wrote: The Last Free Man** (2001) **5.00** **Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery** (1965) **7.00** **Agatha Christie's Marple** **9.00** **Agatha Christie's Poirot** **11.00** **Wire in the Blood** **ITV4** **10.55** **Tour de France 2013 Live** **4.30** **British Touring Car Championship** **6.00** **The Sweeney** **7.00** **Tour de France 2013 Highlights** **8.00** **The Motorbike Show** **9.00** **Hell on Wheels** **10.00** **Film: Cliffhanger** (1993) **E4** **3.00** **90210** **4.00** **Rules of Engagement** **6.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **7.00** **The Mindy Project** **7.30** **Happy Endings** **8.00** **How I Met Your Mother** **8.30** **2 Broke Girls** **9.00** **Film: Coming to America** (1988) **11.20** **The Inbetweeners** **Film4** **3.30** **The Remains of the Day** (1993) **6.10** **The Hunt for Red October** (1990) **9.00** **Limitless** (2011) Sci-fi thriller, with Bradley Cooper. **11.05** **Scanners** (1981)

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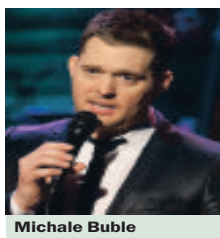
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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 30.06.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Michael Buble

Michael Buble's Day Off
ITV, 9pm

Suited and booted and preened to perfection with a voice that booms from here to the other side of Christmas, Michael Buble never fails to put on a show-stopping performance. But just for once, this isn't about his voice - it's all about his private life. Yes, Buble is allowing access into his life as he takes a day off in his hometown of Vancouver to spend time with his friends and family. Michael pays his 86-year-old grandpa a visit, and reminisces with his dad about the days and nights they used to spend out at sea, before preparing to attend his 20th high school reunion.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.10** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix. Suzi Perry presents coverage of the eighth round of the season at Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm), where Mark Webber took the honours last year. **3.30** A Question of Sport: A-Z. **4.00** Escape to the Country. **8.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Earthlight. A bird's-eye view of Europe. (R)

6.35 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team head to Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, where objects awaiting valuation include a tile commemorating one of the biggest bare-knuckle fights in history. (R)

8.00 Countryside. John Craven visits the Lake District, where he makes a journey by steam train and rides a steamer on Lake Windermere. Plus, archive stories featuring cars, boats and bikes. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

9.00 The White Queen. Margaret Beaufort joins Warwick's rebellion against Edward, but when the uprising fails, the traitors run for their lives - so Elizabeth and Jacquetta turn to witchcraft again.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day Live. The Confederations Cup final (Kick-off 11.00pm). Gary Lineker presents all the action from the showpiece match at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

1.30 Weatherview. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40** Film: Mr Lucky. (1943) Romantic comedy drama, starring Cary Grant and Laraine Day. **9.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** MotoGP: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** EastEnders. **7.00** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **7.50** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News.

8.30 Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** Film: Sparkling Cyanide. (1983) **1.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.20** A Touch of Frost. (R) **4.20** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.50** Film: Beethoven's 5th. (2003)

6.30 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. With Oodoo, Jenny Eclair and Matthew Wolfenden.

8.00 The Cube: Celebrity Special. Olympic gymnast Louis Smith and TOWIE star Mark Wright take on the challenge in a bid to raise money for charity. Phillip Schofield hosts.

9.00 Michael Buble's Day Off. The Canadian crooner gives a personal insight into his life as he takes a day off in his hometown of Vancouver to spend time with his family and friends.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 The Talent Show Story. The changing role of the talent-show host. (R)

11.15 Murder, She Wrote. Part two of two. Doctor reveals Seth was poisoned. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.15** Monk. (R)

3.00 Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV

NightScreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.15** Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.40** Poppy Cat. **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R)

7.35 Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **7.50** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News.

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11.15 Murder, She Wrote. Part two of two. Doctor reveals Seth was poisoned. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.15** Monk. (R)

3.00 Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV

NightScreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Ironman 2013. **7.05** Windsor Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.55** Hollywood Me. (R) **3.55** Deal or No Deal. **4.55** Film: Fantastic Mr Fox. (2009)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Terror in the Skies. Aeronautical engineer Brendan Walker looks at what happens when planes fly into hazards such as lightning, invisible wind shear, birds and volcanic ash. Last in the series.

8.00 The Secret of Lincoln Jail: A Time Team Special. As an archaeological dig at Lincoln Castle reveals new secrets about the horrors of its early prisons, Tony Robinson traces the story of punishment over the course of a millennium.

9.00 The Returned. As Lena's mysterious scar grows, she is convinced Camille is behind it, while Julie does not put up a fight when the police take Victor away. French supernatural thriller.

10.05 Film: Fracture. (2007) A man shoots his wife, confesses to the crime, and represents himself in court, where he demolishes the prosecution's case. Thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Reynolds.

12.15 The Simpsons. (R) **1.05** Film: Chitrangada: The Crowning Wish. (2012) **3.35** Location, Location. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Puddle-Head and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** 10by's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.50** ThunderCats. (R) **11.15** Monkey Life. (R) **11.45** Big Brother. (R) **12.55** 2B BOTS: Rylan's Supersized Celebrity Sunday. **2.00** Film: National Security. (2003) **3.35** Film: Gremlins 2: The New Batch. (1990) **5.40** Film: Lost in Space. (1998)

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. A giant goes on the rampage in Storybrooke.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights.

10.00 Film: The Eye. (2008) Premiere. Horror, starring Jessica Alba.

11.55 Bomb Patrol. Chase Holzhauer and Jeremy Stein are called on to dispose of a suicide vest.

12.55 SuperCasino. **4.00** Michael's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: British Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Vampire Weekend & Jessie Ware @ Glastonbury **9.00** Editors & Lianne La Havas @ Glastonbury **10.00** The xx Live @ Glastonbury **11.30** Russell Howard's Good News Extra

BBC Four
7.00 Britain's Natural World **7.10** The Rabbits of Skomer **7.20** Film: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949) **9.00** Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas **10.30** Glastonbury: Bobby Womack

ITV2
3.15 Film: Catwoman (2004) **5.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (2005) **8.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Hell's Kitchen

ITV3
3.45 Inspector Morse **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.55** Lewis. The inspector investigates a student's murder. **10.00** A Touch of Frost

ITV4
1.00 Tour de France 2013 Live **4.30** Dakar Rally: Frontline to Finish Line **6.30** Police, Camera, Action! **7.00** Tour de France 2013 Highlights **8.00** 20 Years of Champions League **10.00** Film: Species: The Awakening (2007)

E4
4.00 90210 **5.00** The Mindy Project **5.30** New Girl **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Film: Hot Shots! Part Deux (1993) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **11.20** Don't Trust the B*** in Apartment 23 **11.50** Alan Carr: Chatty Man

Film4
3.05 Black Knight (2001) **4.55** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **6.50** Grease (1978) **8.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** The Spirit of '45 (2013)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Picking Up and Dropping Off, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two single parents – one a lonely weatherman and the other an antiques dealer – have a chance encounter during a hectic trip to the airport to drop off their children. The pair go their separate ways, but although they are unable to stop thinking about each other, they lack the courage to act on their feelings. Romantic comedy, starring Scott Wolf, Amanda Detmer and Rachelle Lefevre. (2003)

TUESDAY

Cold Mountain, BBC2, 11.20pm
A soldier serving in the American Civil War deserts his post and makes a long journey home to the woman he loves. She faces challenges of her own, as she struggles to run her dead father's farm and stop the cruel leader of the local home guard stealing her land. Anthony Minghella's period drama, starring Nicole Kidman, Jude Law, Renee Zellweger, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Natalie Portman and Donald Sutherland. (2003)

WEDNESDAY

Holy Man, Channel 4, 1.45am
The cynical executive in charge of a downmarket TV shopping channel hires a mystic guru as a presenter to draw in more viewers. The ratings soar as the unlikely host's on-air spiritual advice proves a runaway hit with the public, and also makes his shallow boss reassess his values. Satirical comedy, starring Eddie Murphy, Jeff Goldblum, Kelly Zellweger and Jon Cryer. (1998)



Notting Hill, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Murder 101: If Wishes Were Horses, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Retired criminologist Dr Jonathan Maxwell teams up with private detective Mike Bryant to investigate the theft of a champion racehorse. However, the case takes a more sinister turn when a member of the family that owns the animal dies in suspicious circumstances. Mystery, starring Ray Abruzzo and Brad Beyer. (2007)

FRIDAY

Notting Hill, ITV, 10.35pm
A recently divorced bookshop owner finds love with a glamorous Hollywood film star, but ends up the focus of unwanted media interest – which makes maintaining a relationship a tricky proposition. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Julia Roberts. (1999)

Old School

BBC1, 11.25pm
An embittered lawyer decides to relive the wild, crazy days of his youth after his girlfriend is unfaithful, and enlists the help of two equally disillusioned friends in setting up a fraternity house next to his former college campus. Comedy, with Luke Wilson and Will Ferrell. (2003)

Pick of the Week

Rick takes a culinary journey around India

The part-travelogue, part-cookery show format is a recipe which has been emulated many times, ever since Keith Floyd first wobbled his way through various exotic locations in search of interesting foods (and drinks).

It's quite a simple one to follow, too – simply take one recognisable chef, immerse in a sunny location, simmer for six weeks and serve with a brand new hardback cookbook. Et voilà!

So yes, it's true that this latest adventure embarked upon by Rick Stein is hardly original – Stein himself has had similar series already in locales such as the Far East and Spain already – however the Oxfordshire foodie is always worth a watch.

His avuncular style and enthusiastic demeanour make him the perfect traveller, as he gets to the roots of an area, meeting locals and getting to know their culinary secrets, as well as exploring how food plays a pivotal role in their culture.

This week, the seafood chef approaches the halfway point of his journey, as he arrives in the southern town of Madurai in Tamil Nadu. Located on the banks of the River Vaigai, Madurai has a rich history.

It's been a major settlement for over 2,000 years, making it one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world – so as one might reasonably expect its people have developed an impressive array of local delicacies. Indeed, while there, Rick learns how to cook food fit for a deity at a temple, as well as sampling the speciality lentil-based dish of sambar.

It's not long before our genial tour guide is back on the road again, though, and en route to the state of Kerala, by way of a road trip across the Western Ghats. Kerala, on the Malabar coast in the south-west of the country, has long been a bustling centre for the spice trade, allowing its dishes to develop rich and complex flavours.

Here, Rick picks up some tips on making a traditional pork curry with a

distinctly Kerala flavour, before turning his attention to preparing a regional dessert, payasam, which is a sweetened rice pudding containing fruit, nuts, and plenty of spices.

For anyone who thought the cuisine of India was simply curry, curry and more curry, this will prove to be an eye-opening series – it seems that in reality, dishes are as diverse and plentiful as they are delicious, and it's that variety which is as richly spicy as any.

Mind you, that's not to say Rick doesn't enjoy a good curry. He explained at the start of the series, "There's something about a curry that's all-pervading; just the thought of it ignites a longing deep inside us. It's the only food I can think of where the sense of smell works so wonderfully well with memory and imagination... No other food I know gives the taste buds such a roller-coaster ride."

It's that blend of poeticism and enthusiasm that makes Rick the perfect choice to front this spectacular series.



Rick Stein's India, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Gadget Show
Channel 5, 8pm

Gamers take note! Tonight, the team is at the world's biggest gamers' expo to sample the PS4 and Xbox One in the company of gaming superstars KSI and Ali-A. Now part of a huge industry, consoles are becoming more multi-media and their games more realistic, so it's tantalising to imagine what these new releases are capable of. However, it's not just the PS4 and Xbox One that get sampled tonight. Rachel Riley and Jason Bradbury put the latest home security technology through its paces, Polyanna Woodward tests a jet-powered bodyboard, while Jon Bentley looks at the alternatives when he asks whether we still need Sky TV.

Undercover Boss
Channel 4, 9pm

Here's a lesson to live your life by: always welcome new colleagues with open arms, at least until you're completely sure that they're not an Undercover Boss. This ever-entertaining series is back for a fifth series tonight, beginning as Phil Couchman, CEO of DHL Express UK & Ireland, joins staff on the front line. In the three years since he became boss, Phil has seen the company's turnover reach a massive £800million – however, rapid expansion brings its own problems, and the high-flying exec is eager to find out what can be done, even if it means getting his own hands dirty in the process.

TUESDAY

Gok Live: Stripping for Summer
Channel 4, 8pm

"Thank Gok he's back!"... is how we imagine the cries of women across the nation will sound when they catch this new series. Gok Wan's on hand to prepare women with the confidence they need to dare to bare for the summer holidays, but this time he's got the added pressure of the show being live. In the first instalment, he surprises two women with a new look for the holidays, while his huge outside catwalk show is filled with tips on how to look good in the sun, no matter your size or body shape. First up, he's focusing on the dreaded bikini. Meanwhile, Katie Piper is on hand to offer a step-by-step guide to essential holiday beauty maintenance.

WEDNESDAY
Dates

Channel 4, 10pm
As the series comes to an end, we check in with Mia and David, who are now in a fully fledged relationship – but it seems like there are just as many problems that come hand-in-hand with relationships as they do the single life. As Mia prepares to meet her new boyfriend's children, events take an awkward turn and she is forced to finally confront the gap in her life that's she's trying to fill. Bryan Elsley, creator of the drama, has

played a blinder with this series; it's touched the nation and appealed to so many people in different ways. Hats off to all involved in a stunning series...

THURSDAY
Happy Families
ITV, 9pm

As the last episode in this fascinating documentary series airs, the four families at the heart of it should be in a celebratory mood – at the very least, they should be patting themselves on the backs for being brave enough to let the nation get a glimpse of their domestic arrangements. However, one clan in particular should feel like throwing a party, as Mel and Kris are renewing their vows, although juggling five kids with five part-time jobs doesn't leave much time for wedding planning. When they're not trying to make it down the aisle, Mel and Kris find time to reflect on what it takes to make a marriage work, a topic that's also on the minds of the other families.

FRIDAY
Sherlock
BBC1, 8.30pm
Don't get your hopes up too




Gok Live: Stripping ... Tuesday, Channel 4, 8pm

much – the BBC aren't finally putting us out of our misery and bringing us the third series of Sherlock, complete with an explanation of what exactly happened in the last episode of season two. But fortunately, we can enjoy the second series again, thanks to these repeats which begin with the detective duo investigating a case of blackmail that threatens to go right to the very heart of the British establishment. That's more or less just another day at the office for Holmes and Watson. But that's before their investigations bring Sherlock into contact with someone every bit as cold, ruthless and brilliant as he is – Irene Adler (Lara Pulver).

Britain's Secret Homes
ITV, 9pm

If the endless repeats of Grand Designs, Location, Location, Location, and A Place in the Sun haven't quite satisfied your appetite for shows about houses, then this countdown show should. For the last in the current series, Michael Buerk and Bettany Hughes will be wrapping things up with the aid of some rather famous folks, and the odd person who is almost famous. We'll let you decide which one is which as actor David Jason, actress and impressionist Ronni Ancona, Father Brown star Mark Williams and TV presenter Mary-Anne Ochoa explore the 10 most remarkable properties in the country. They include the Lincoln restaurant with a tragic, murderous past, and a house in Shropshire that helped save the monarchy.

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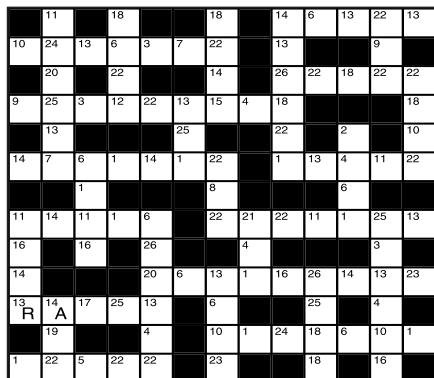
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.227

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

X	B	M	R	W	I	S	K	Z	G	E	P	O
D	A	V	C	T	U	J	L	N	Y	H	Q	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

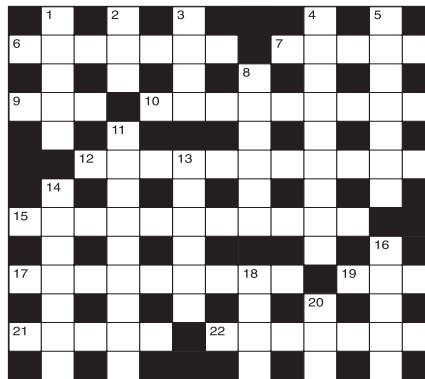
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Everybody was in debt - it's not forbidden (7)
 7. Timber needed for shafts (5)
 9. A New York word (3)
 10. The right alternative for the proof-reader (9)
 12. I made orders for desert transport (11)
 15. Venus is no matinee idol, apparently! (7-4)
 17. Slightly injured - withdrawn from the team (9)
 19. Aim in a given direction (3)
 21. Monetary securities producing personal restrictions (5)
 22. I strive to make another call (7)

Down

1. Cast used for supporting a weak member (5)
 2. This sly creature is a loud bellow (3)
 3. Money needed to settle the account, we hear, in this way (4)
 4. Inconstant, like a planet (9)
 5. I'm ready for the picture to be put on (7)
 8. Wedding belles (6)
 11. They certainly couldn't be accused of having too little spirit! (9)
 13. A stick-up with me around constitutes a threat (6)
 14. One who ousts the Eastern conqueror (7)
 16. Point at which metal-workers strike (5)
 18. Poetic end to the day is calm and unruffled (4)
 20. Short writing can be illuminated (3)



Quick Clues:

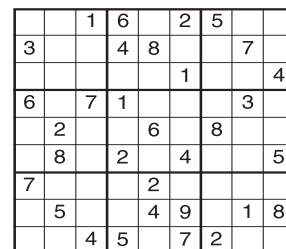
Across

6. Liberty (7)
 7. Lid (5)
 9. Insane (3)
 10. Impromptu (9)
 12. Essay (11)
 15. Cheeky (11)
 17. Deeply shocked (9)
 19. In favour of (3)
 21. Scatter (5)
 22. Attack (7)

Down

1. Handle (5)
 2. Determined (3)
 3. Trick (4)
 4. Fit (9)
 5. Censure (7)
 8. Diminish (6)
 11. Alien (9)
 13. Glib talk (6)
 14. Copy (7)
 16. Earth (5)
 18. Otherwise (4)
 20. Hiatus (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	1	9	7	2	8	4	6	3
7	8	3	5	9	4	1	6	2
4	6	2	1	3	8	7	5	9
1	4	5	2	7	3	6	9	8
9	3	7	6	8	5	2	1	4
6	2	8	9	4	1	3	7	5
8	9	6	4	1	2	3	7	5
2	7	1	3	5	9	8	4	6
3	5	4	8	6	7	9	2	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Spine-chilling; 8 Trousers; 9 Duty; 10 Stayed; 12 Easter; 14 Edson; 16 Temple; 18 Spar; 20 Trailers; 22 Distinguished.
 Down: 1 Spirited; 2 Injury; 3 Acre; 4 Misspent; 5 Blades; 6 Knot; 11 Donating; 13 Enlarged; 15 Struts; 17 Molest; 19 Pair; 21 Arum. QUICK - Across: 7 United Kingdom; 8 Retentive; 9 Able; 10 Gentle; 12 Action; 14 Street; 16 Tested; 18 Goad; 20 Entrance; 22 Salvation Army. Down: 1 Interest; 2 Strict; 3 Idle; 4 Distract; 5 Agast; 6 Toll; 11 Entreaty; 13 Overcome; 15 Endive; 17 Seaman; 19 Oral; 21 Trot.



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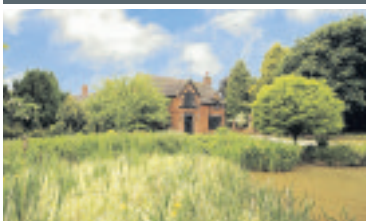
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47 THE STEWPONEY

- Detached 4 bed house
- Kitchen extending into conservatory
- Decked rear garden (EPC - C)

£995 PCM

WOLLESCOTE
ASHCOMBE, SPRINGFIELD AVENUE

- Modern detached house
- 3 good sized bedrooms
- Single garage (EPC - C)

£595 PCM

WORDSLEY
11 LAWNWOOD ROAD

- Traditional 3 bed mid terrace house
- Kitchen with integrated appliances
- Rear garden with patio area (EPC - D)

£595 PCM

KINGSWINFORD
50 LARCH ROAD

- Traditional semi detached house
- Substantial drive for two cars
- 2 bedrooms (EPC - D)

£545 PCM

MERRY HILL
42 COLUMBUS AVENUE

- Modern second floor apartment
- 2 bedrooms master with en-suite
- One allocated parking space (EPC - B)

£525 PCM

WALL HEATH
31 FORGE LANE

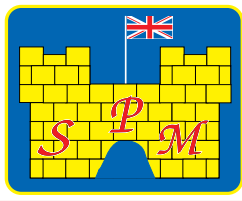
- Semi detached house
- 2 bedrooms with fitted units
- Through lounge (EPC - D)

£525 PCM

AMBLECOTE
FLAT D HIGH STREET

- First floor bedsit
- Kitchen with integrated appliances
- Parking area (EPC - C)

£375 PCM



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KINGSWINFORD NEW BEECH ROAD FOR SALE £74,950 First Floor Flat in Central Kingswinford. Offered with No Upward Chain. Accommodation Comprises of: Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front Garden	COSELEY NEW ROSEVILLE PRECINCT FOR SALE £54,950 First Floor Flat in Central Cosely. Available with No Upward Chain. Well Presented Accommodation Comprises of: Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Front & Rear Parking, EPC-E	WORDSLEY NEW ARUNDEL ROAD FOR SALE £134,995 Semi detached property, comprises of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom & a Separate WC. Features of the property include: Partial Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking and a Garage. EPC - E	COSELEY NEW GREENOAK CRESCENT £650 pcm Semi Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking for 3 cars, Front & Rear Gardens
WORDSLEY NEW TACK FARM ROAD £595 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking bay at rear, Front & Rear Garden	BRIERLEY HILL NEW BISELL WAY £395 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking	WALL HEATH NEW MILE FLAT £785 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front, Side and Rear Gardens, Unfurnished	DUDLEY NEW HAWKESLEY ROAD £525 pcm Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, • Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished
KINGSWINFORD NEW KEYES DRIVE £435 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Garage, Allocated Parking	KINGSWINFORD NEW LABURNUM ROAD £460 pcm End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden.	WOMBOURNE NEW SWINFORD LEYS £650 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens	BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW £465 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front Garden, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.
PEDMORE LANSDOWNE CRT, HAGLEY ROAD £500 pcm Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking.	KINGSWINFORD SOUTHERN CLOSE £750 pcm Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage	KINGSWINFORD DUDLEY ROAD £725 pcm Semi Detached Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Recently refurbished	BROCKMOOR HIGH STREET £495 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, DSS Considered, Rear Garden
BRIERLEY HILL CHARTER STREET Negotiable Good sized commercial unit (3750 sq ft), with office/reception and toilet facilities, double height roller shutter and two ground pits. Rent & Lease term negotiable	PENSNETT HIGH STREET £410 pcm First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished	TIVIDALE OAKTHORPE GARDENS £420 pcm Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking	HALESOWEN ATTWOOD STREET £525 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden
PENSNETT BRYCE ROAD £525 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens	BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW £450 pcm Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Front Garden, DSS Considered	PENSNETT CHURCH STREET £550 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking	BROCKMOOR STATION ROAD £495 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Off Road Parking

Property



The house in Kestrel Grove, Willenhall, is on the market with L & S Prestige Estates, call 01902 606595 for details

Semi with refitted kitchen on market

A TWO-BEDROOM semi-detached house with a refitted kitchen/diner in Kestrel Grove, Coppice Farm, Willenhall, is for sale at £132,995.

The property has double glazing and central heating, a spacious lounge, refitted lounge/diner, separate utility, conservatory, two bedrooms, family bathroom, garage storage area, tarmac driveway and rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 14ft 3in by 10ft 2in, has a wall mounted electric fire with double doors to the kitchen/diner measuring 13ft 3in by 9ft 7in and with a range of wall and base units, work tops, stainless steel one and a half bowl sink, space for slot in cooker

with chimney extractor over and French doors to a conservatory which is 11ft 6in by 9ft 6in and has french doors to the rear.

There is also a utility room with a range of wall and base units, work tops, stainless steel sink with mixer tap, space and plumbing for automatic washing machine and space for tall fridge freezer - and with a door to the garage storage area.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath with shower over, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside to the front is a tarmac driveway and to the rear a lawn, two paved patio areas and shrub borders.

Call L & S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595 to arrange a viewing.



There's a range of white wall and base units with worksurfaces in the spacious kitchen/diner



The house in a private driveway off Walsall Road is on the market with Webbs for offers around £139,000

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Private driveway leads to three-bed link detached

A THREE-BEDROOM link detached property down a private driveway is for sale with no chain - and has been reduced in price to £139,000.

The house in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, has a porch, lounge, breakfast kitchen, veranda, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, detached double garage, parking and front garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 18ft by 12ft 1in, has a gas fire and access to a breakfast kitchen with a range of units, roll edge work surfaces, stainless steel sink with

mixer tap and plumbing and space for washing machine. There is also a veranda and downstairs WC.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with bath with shower, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside the property is situated down a private driveway accessed via electric gates with a lawn and greenhouse, and to the rear is a double garage accessed via Broadmeadow lane.

Call the agent Webbs, 01543 468846 for further details.

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A family home with equestrian facilities and ancillary accommodation in the glorious North Worcestershire countryside.

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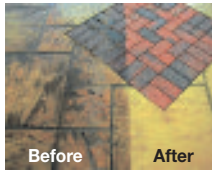
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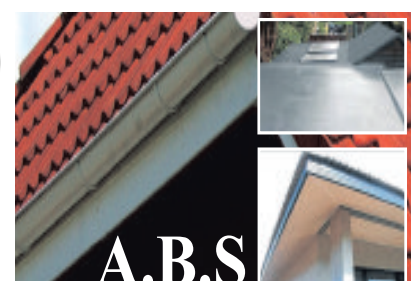
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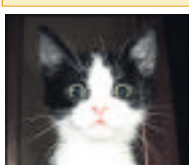
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1 Family

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6 Property

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland New Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Dacia Duster is proving to be a real deal buster

IF you've had cause to travel around Europe lately, you might have spotted something sporting a different badge on the roads.

Dacia products have become a popular sight in recent years – especially in France – for two very good reasons: affordability and durability. Low cost motoring is all the rage on the continent. Unlike in the UK, our foreign friends aren't such hardened badge snobs, meaning cars such as Dacia's Duster have been welcomed with open arms by cost-conscious motorists.

Simply put, when you can get a compact SUV capable of plugging mud with the best Land Rover can offer for less than the price of a Fiesta, somehow the badge on the bonnet is the least of your worries. If Dacia is a mystery to

you, you're not alone. Snapped up by Renault some time ago, critics thought the French firm was taking a huge risk with this budget maker of uninspiring cars.

The passing of time has proven the naysayers wrong, as Renault's input has led to a portfolio of value-driven, dependable, stylish and capable products; from superminis to the aforementioned Duster.

Appearance

Lifestyle SUVs are two-a-penny these days but few are that cheap anymore. Most are increasingly car-like in their appearance and on-road performance.

The Duster retains a chunky-looking, purposeful exterior of a traditional 4x4 but with enough curves to help it slice through the air with relative ease.



The Duster welcomed with open arms by the cost-conscious Continental motorist



The Duster can compete off-road with a Land Rover but you can grab it for the price of a Fiesta

The emphasis might be on modest performance and equipment levels, but there's nothing cheap about the Duster. Low power petrol and diesel engines are offered (1.6-litre, 105bhp petrol and 1.5-litre, 110bhp diesel), plus the choice of front or four-wheel drive.

The switchable all-wheel drive system allows a driver to choose between front-drive, an auto-sensing mode and a locked 4x4 setting.

Factor in three trim levels and there's little else you might want. Well, apart from air-con, a stereo and alloy wheels. Yes, this is how Dacia can price the Duster so low.

If you want these creature comforts, you're going to have to pick the middle specification for some tunes and the highest spec model if you want manual air conditioning and alloys.

Still, even if you opt for the flagship Duster, you're not even close to high-spec Skoda Yeti

money. The car's interior looks and feels tough thanks to sensible trim and material choices, although it retains an easy-on-the-eye appearance.

Familiar Renault switchgear rounds off the driver-centric side of things, while the Duster's cabin is a good size and easily capable of accommodating a growing family.

Capacity

Move rearwards and the ability to fold the rear seats for extra load capacity is a detail that won't belost on active families.

On the move, there's a similar feeling of accomplishment. While neither engine is bursting with excess horsepower, brisk progress is possible.

The petrol engine might be a little quieter than the diesel alternative but it's the latter

that scores the highest in terms of flexibility and economy. Those attributes alone should have anyone considering using the Duster as a family workhorse to plump for the oil burner.

Predictably, all-wheel drive variants grip and go with ease on a variety of surfaces, but if the Duster is scheduled for only light duties, there's no shame in opting for a two-wheel drive variant. Furthermore, compliant suspension and accurate steering put to rest any notion that low cost equals lack of talent.

By taking a common sense, low frills approach to motoring, Dacia has won many friends and satisfied owners in mainland Europe. The firm's Duster is proof that, even in the fashion-led world of lifestyle SUVs, you can succeed if all the elements – looks, ability, affordability, practicality – add up.

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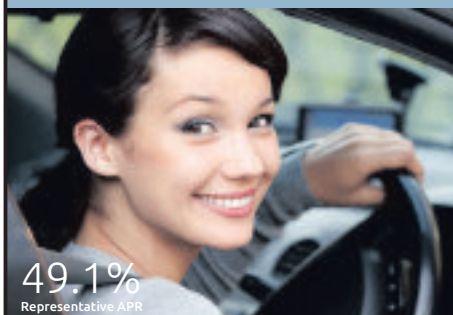


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Motoring

MG unveils the full range of new styles

MG has unveiled the full range of styles for the UK MG3 at its Birmingham-based European Design Centre.

The new car carries forward many of the styling cues first illustrated on the MG ZERO concept car, again designed here at SAIC Motors European Design Centre. SAIC, MG's parent company, is the eight largest automotive company in the world and China's No1 auto firm.

The UK studio has just undergone an additional investment and is now more than double its original size. It opened just three years ago in what was then a £5 million capital programme. It's now the fifth largest automotive design studio in Britain.

MG3 is a distinctive statement of modern British style designed to target young and style conscious buyers, wanting something that's different from anything else in the market.

Interior

From launch, MG3 customers will be able to personalise both the exterior and interior of this new supermini MG, making it fun to buy and own, as well as having the MG trademark of being fun to drive.

The MG3 is all about style, fun and offering customers the ability to personalise the car. With three trim levels, 10 colours and a range of at least 10 graphic packs, they will be spoilt for choice. The combinations are almost endless.

Depending on the model choice, exterior highlights include 16" Diamond cut alloy wheels, unique LED 'hockey stick' daytime running lights, sport-design bumper, side sill extensions, rear spoiler, sports-design rear



How the MG3, designed at the Birmingham-based centre, could look

valance, chrome exhaust finishers and MG insert headlamps.

Inside the MG3, again depending on trim level and options, key features will be an easy to use air conditioning system, six-speaker audio, Bluetooth with audio streaming, DAB radio, USB/Aux input, automatic lights, automatic wipers, rear parking sensors, 'ZERO' design fabric seats and part-leather trim.

This unique and contemporary style of the MG3 is the work of the 30 design staff and 300 engineers at SAIC's UK Technical Centre here at the MG Bir-

mingham site in Longbridge, UK.

The MG3 will become the second in a new generation of MG vehicles to leave the assembly line at the Birmingham factory, following the introduction of the MG6 petrol and diesel range of GT fastbacks and Magnette four-door sports saloons. Full specifications and prices will be announced nearer to the public launch over MG3.

Production will start at the MG Birmingham site in a few months time and it is anticipated that dealer demonstrators will be in showrooms by September.

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Weather is testing for club's runners

STOURBRIDGE Running Club faced some testing weather in the second run out of four in the Worcester-shire mid-week races.

The race was held last week in Redditch at the Arrow Valley Park and incorporated the Worcester-shire multi-terrain championships.

With heavy rain the day before and on the day, conditions were testing.

Stourbridge had 21 runners with Kevin Burke the first of them over the line in a time of 50:02, 13th overall. Second for the club was Pete Walters on 51:22 (21st overall out of a field of 119) and third was Rob Colman (27th) 52:32.

Awards went to, Joan Clarke (Female vet 50) gold, Zoe Yeomans (Female Senior) silver, Natalie Dellar (Female Senior) bronze, Phil Elwell (Male Vet 60) bronze, Men's Team bronze: Pete Walters/Rob Colman/Chris Blake and the Ladies' Team bronze Joan Clarke, Zoe Yeomans, Natalie Dellar.

The next race in the series is in Droitwich on July 10, organised by Halesowen Athletic and cycling club. This race incorporates the Worcestershire 10k Championships.

Stourbridge also had 13 runners in the Blakedown Bolt, a 10km multi-terrain race held in Blakedown.

First for the club was Christopher Blake on 43:18 who was 10th overall out of 180.

Hot on his heels was Andy Aston (11th) with a time of 43:29 and third was David Rose (29th) 46:53.

Team looks for players

STOURBRIDGE Juniors have created their first Under-11s team to play in the prestigious Midland Junior Premier League.

The team will play in matches with a 9x9 format which is part of the new directive issued by the FA designed to play on smaller pitches with fewer team members.

The club is now looking to recruit talented footballers for this team over the next few weeks.

Anyone interested in trying out for the team should contact the manager of the Under-11s on 07875 363526 or you can contact him by email at adept@blueyonder.co.uk

Edwards is back in pre-season training

MIDFIELDER Dave Edwards will be fit for the start of pre-season training with Wolves this week.

The 27-year-old has been sidelined since March 16 with a broken foot which ruled him out of the run-in which saw Wolves relegated to League One.

Many players' futures are uncertain after back-to-back drops, but with the club taking up the one-year option on his contract, the Wales international is happy his immediate future is sorted.

He is relieved to have made a full recovery to be ready to rejoin his team-mates in training.

"I've managed to get a couple of weeks away with the family which was great, but apart from that I've been here all summer making sure I'm right for pre-season," said Edwards.

"It was always going to be tough and go to see if I'd be ready to start pre-season, but as long as I don't have any reaction I should be OK."

Like many clubs, Wolves returned to pre-season earlier than ever with the season starting on August 3.

But after suffering two major injuries last season - Edwards also tore his hamstring against Bristol

Football

City, in December - the former Shrewsbury midfielder is keen to make up for lost time.

"You always need a bit of a break to switch off but when you haven't played, as I didn't for the final six weeks of the season, you can't wait to get out there," said Edwards, who made just 24 League appearances last season, starting 14.

"I'm raring to go and can't wait for the season to start."

"If you've played 40 games a season you maybe enjoy a break

more, but I've enjoyed getting my work done."

"With the facilities here and being able to work with the physios and the fitness coaches, it's been good."

Most fans see the release of the fixtures as a reason to start eagerly looking forward to next season.

Edwards is no different, especially as Wolves will be playing his home-town club and first team Shrewsbury for the first time in League combat since 1984-85 - before the midfielder was even born.

"It's always exciting to see the

new fixtures and that's the same even though it's not in a league we want to be in," he said.

"We hope we can do a lot better than last season."

"In my case I look for the Shrewsbury games and it's September 21 when we go to Greenhous Meadow, which will be an exciting one."

"Hopefully I'll be fit and playing then and we can get the right result."

Edwards has made 150 appearances for Wolves since joining the club from Luton for £675,000 in January 2008.

Best young riders are set to hammer it out

SOME of the best young riders in the world will take their place in Dudley's prestigious FAST Golden Hammer at Wolverhampton next month.

An exciting line-up has been assembled by the former Cradley club who have also tempted Cradley legend Billy Hamill back to the Black Country to meet the fans on Tuesday, July 16.

Hamill will be alongside Californian youngster Max Ruml in the pits at the event after carrying out an autograph session from 6pm. Brady Kurtz, brother of former National League star Todd, has also agreed to take his place in the field alongside all the current Heathens stars.

Also included in the event, which is supported by Dudley Stroke Association, is reigning champion Kyle Newman, former Heathens skipper Jon Armstrong and hugely popular ex-Heathens Tom Perry.

Exciting
Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "Full credit to Gary Patchett, our co-promoter, who has put this field together. It's probably the most exciting line-up we've had in the four Hammers we have done."

"I'm looking forward to meeting up with Billy Hamill again and can't wait to see the young riders, Brady Kurtz and Max Ruml."

"I'm also delighted to welcome back Armo, Tom and Darryl Ritchings who always gave their best for this club."

There will be a collection

Speedway

on the night for Dudley Stroke Association who are promoting the Face Arms Speech Time message.

Club partners Motor Market will have a presence at the Hamill autograph session after agreeing to join the event and offer a cash prize to the most unlucky and most exciting riders on the night.

Normal admission prices apply for the meeting: £11 adults, £8 concessions and £2 children. A special souvenir programme, including an eight-page supplement on Hamill's Cradley career with photos, will cost £3.

The club have announced riders for the forthcoming FAST Golden Hammer at Monmore on Tuesday, July 16.

LINE-UP: Ashley Morris, Lewis Blackbird, Paul Starke, Dan Greenwood, Gareth Isherwood, Max Ruml, Brady Kurtz, Max Clegg, Nathan Greaves, Max Ruml, Brady Kurtz, Jon Armstrong, Kyle Newman, Robert Branford, Simon Lambert, Tom Perry, Darryl Ritchings, Kyle Hughes.

Glassboys pick up the silver for league efforts



From left, coach Mark Clifton, league chairman Ken Turner, assistant manager Jon Ford, president Hugh Clark and manager Gary Hackett. Photograph courtesy of Tony Hickey

STOURBRIDGE FC are celebrating after picking up a trophy and prize money for the effort during the season.

At the Southern League Presentation Dinner and Dance in Torquay last weekend The Glassboys picked up the Premier Division Runners-Up Trophy along with £2,500 for finishing second in the league behind champions Leamington in 2012/13.

Stourbridge were well represented at the evening and four members of the party collected the silverware from league chairman Ken Turner on behalf of the club.

The Southern League has also announced new title sponsors for the 2013/14 season in Calor, whose headquarters are in Warwick. Calor will replace Evo-stik as title sponsors from next month after the league

acceded to a request from Bostik Ltd to terminate their sponsorship a year early. The league will be known as the Calor League.

Calor have more than 77 years of experience providing heating, cooking and energy solutions to the heating, catering, agriculture and transport industries. They sponsor the home shirts of Conference Premier outfit, Woking.

Academy star leads way for Victoria

KIDDERMINSTER VICTORIA went second in the Premier Division after a 35-run victory over Berkswell.

Worcestershire academy player Connor Smith top scored with 33 in Vics' 125 before claiming 4-9 as Berkswell were bowled out for 90.

Stourbridge settled for a losing draw against Harborne in Division Two.

James Lawley hit 52 in Stourbridge's 145, but Harborne took the winning draw on a faster run rate with 128-7 in 46 overs.

Wombourne (157-9) had the edge over Himley in a winning draw.

Wolverhampton (130-7) enjoyed a winning draw against Knowle and Dorridge who replied with 69-8.

West Bromwich Dartmouth were skittled out for 91 and suffered a four-wicket defeat at Walmley.

In Division One, Old Hill (97) slipped to a 49-run defeat against Barnards Green. Brewdon (120-6) settled for a losing draw against Kenilworth Wards (181-9).

Shifnal fell four runs short at 155-6 in a losing draw against Smethwick (159-4). Fordhouses scored 183-8 and lost by six wickets to Old Elizabethans.

Still time to register for tournament

VOLLEYBALL teams still have time to sign up for the Sandwell Volleyball Tournament at Sandwell Valley next weekend.

The event on Saturday July 6 will be run at Sandwell Park Farm and is organised by volunteers supported by Sandwell Council and Sandwell Leisure Trust.

It is hoped this year's event will be bigger than recent tournaments in the Valley - 30 teams participated in 2010 and 40 teams in the 2011 tournament. Last year's event was cancelled due to bad weather.

Teams of six have until tomorrow (Friday), to register. The cost per team is £25 and the event starts at 10am.

Teams need to be there at 9am to register.

For more information contact Vic Westwood on 0121 602 2484 or email vicwestw@blueyonder.co.uk



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Hell for weather
Runners face tough test
in second of four heats
Page 43

Trophy night
Glassboys take
rewards of season
Page 43



Jackett's clearing decks at Molineux

KENNY JACKETT has admitted he transfer listed four of Wolves' big-hitters because he needs to "change the dynamics of the dressing room" as he declared a new era for the club.

The Molineux head coach told Roger Johnson, Jamie O'Hara, Karl Henry and Stephen Ward they weren't part of his plans as the players returned for the start of pre-season training.

Jackett believes it's vital to change the profile of the players at the club as he plans for League One.

"We'll be making assessments and communicating with the powers-that-be as we try to change the dynamics of the dressing room," said Jackett.

"We want to produce a young, vibrant, hungry Wolves team and keep an eye on the market and make sure we're competitive for the players we want."

Jackett revealed his decision to allow Henry to leave was partly to allow the young midfield talent at the club a greater chance.

"These are tough decisions but I'm looking at the midfield area and think there are some good, young players there who need their chance," he said.

Jackett confirmed winger Adam Hammill has joined Huddersfield on a three-year deal after a six-figure fee was agreed between the two clubs.

Griffiths the goal getter

KENNY JACKETT believes Leigh Griffiths can be Wolves' set-piece king.

The 22-year-old striker returned for the start of pre-season training this week with a growing reputation after a stunning campaign on loan at Hibernian, where he scored 28 goals in 42 games.

Head coach Jackett is looking for the Scotland international to bring his scoring boots south of the border after Wolves turned down an undisclosed bid from Hibs for him.

Jackett insists he wants Griffiths to spearhead his attack in League One after the club took up the year's option on his contract.

Griffiths, who has only played 10 minutes for Wolves, scored some stunning strikes for Hibs last term, including free-kicks. And Jackett believes the striker can add the same threat to Wolves' attack.

Battered team puts up battling performance

DEPLETED Wolverhampton put in a gutsy display before eventually suffering a 53-39 defeat at the hands of Lakeside.

With Tai Woffinden, Ty Proctor and Ricky Wells all missing, Wolves put in a battling performance – yet they eventually missed out on a point against a powerhouse Hammers' side on Friday.

After conceding a 5-1 in just the second race of the night, Wolves' chances looked bleak.

Yet two wins each for Fredrik Lindgren, Adam Skornicki and Jacob Thorsell ensured they were just two points behind

Speedway

after eight outings. However, Lakeside fired in back-to-back 5-1s in heats nine and 10 to turn the meeting on its head, before Davey Watt condemned Fredrik Lindgren to his first defeat of the night whilst the Wolves man went for double points.

In desperate need of a heat advantage, the visitors could only manage a pair of 3-3s in the next two races before the home side wrapped up victory with a 4-2 in the penultimate race of the night.

Skipper Lindgren put in a delightful

display from the No.1 position to give his side a chance, while Adam Skornicki once again stepped up with a strong showing in support.

Yet Ryan Fisher and Alex Davies made minimal impact while guesting for the influential Woffinden and Proctor – with Fisher forced to withdraw from his final ride after suffering a nasty fall in his third outing.

With rider replacement also yielding only three points in place of Ricky Wells, Wolves were left with a weak top five which saw them run out of steam in the closing

stages. Reserves Ludvig Lindgren and Jacob Thorsell did make useful contributions – the latter bagging two race wins – yet with the Monmore men accounting for 13 last places they were unable to snatch an unlikely point.

Lakeside: Piotr Swiderski 12+1, Peter Karlsson 9+2, Davey Watt 8+1, Lewis Bridger 7+1, Sebastian Ulamek 7+1, Kevin Doolan 5+2, Tyson Nelson 5

Wolverhampton: Freddie Lindgren 15, Adam Skornicki 11, Jacob Thorsell 6, Ludvig Lindgren 5+1, Ryan Fisher 2, Alex Davies 0, Ricky Wells R/R

Legends honoured at 30-year memorial

DUDLEY HEATHENS will make a special presentation to club legends Alan Grahame and Jan O. Pedersen at the Cradley 83 celebration night on August 23.

Tickets for the event at Cradley Heath Liberal Club are selling fast as the 30th anniversary of Cradley's greatest team is celebrated.

Grahame, who rode over 700 meetings in the Dudley Wood days, and Pedersen will be on stage with 1983 Cradley boss Peter Adams.

A presentation will mark the riders' contribution to Cradley Heath Speedway.

Dudley Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "Both Alan and Jan O. gave many years' service to the club and we believe this deserves some recognition."

"We will be making a presentation to both for their amazing contributions to one of the greatest clubs in British Speedway history."

The trio will relive that amazing season with inside stories from the Dudley Wood days – and there will be a raffle and auction. Tickets are £10, available from the club shop next Tuesday when Heathens face Mildenhall at Monmore or online at www.dudleyheathens.co.uk.

Half-century by Fell was in vain

WOLVERHAMPTON batsman Tom Fell's half-century was in vain as Worcestershire took a seven-wicket thrashing at the hands of Northamptonshire in the Yorkshire Bank 40. Nineteen-year-old Fell top-scored for the Royals at Northampton with 55 off 71 deliveries. But Worcestershire were restricted to 187-8 off their 40 overs.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, June 27, 2013.

ADAMS DESPERATE TO END ON A HIGH

Wolves 55 Eastbourne 38

WOLVES boss Peter Adams is keen to see his side remain at the top of the Elite League table until the end of the season after they strengthened their position with a victory over Eastbourne.

Despite recent pressure from local rivals Birmingham, the Monmore Green outfit remain five points clear with 11 league fixtures remaining. And after another strong performance, Adams revealed he is desperate to see his side end the season in style.

He said: "We won quite comfortably in the end. It was another strong performance where everyone played their part."

"I still think 46 points will be enough for the play-offs and now we're on 36."

"It would be nice to finish at the top, and if Ty Proctor and Tai Woffinden can return from injury and pick up where they left off then there's no reason why we can't do that."

Monday night's result puts them five clear of neighbours Birmingham – and ironically it was Brummies man Chris Harris who played a major part in securing the success, giving a determined display in for the injured GP star Woffinden.

Fredrik Lindgren led the charge, but Harris also bagged 10+1 and suffered just one defeat all night.

Polish ace Adam Skornicki completed a formidable top three with another double figure return.

Another impressive all-around team performance was completed by middle order man Ricky Wells.

The home side suffered a disappointing start as they conceded a 4-2 after Bjarne Pedersen held off Fredrik Lindgren. They hit back as

Speedway

Jacob Thorsell rounded Denis Gizatulin on the final bend to join Swedish compatriot Ludvig Lindgren at the front for a 5-1.

Eastbourne responded with a 5-1 of their own – only for Adam Skornicki to pull Wolves level by leading a heat five 4-2.

Thorsell helped to put Wolves four clear as he came out on top following a battle with Kim Nilsson to take second place behind partner Fredrik Lindgren.

Star guest Harris then pulled off a magnificent ride to extend their advantage.

A further heat advantage followed after another Skornicki win, before the Polish ace snatched second from Nilsson for another 5-1 with Wells in heat 9. That put the Monmore men 12 points up and in the driving seat.

Eastbourne's Bjarne Pedersen hit back with a double points win, but Wolves banged in three heat advantages in the final four outings.

WOLVES: Fredrik Lindgren 14, Adam Skornicki 11+1, Chris Harris 10+1, Ricky Wells 8, Ludvig Lindgren 6+2, Jacob Thorsell 6+2, Ty Proctor R/R.

EASTBOURNE: Bjarne Pedersen 14, Timo Lahti 9+2, Kim Nilsson 6, Simon Gustafsson 5, Denis Gizatulin 3, Cameron Woodward 1+1, Lukas Dryml R/R.



Wolves rider Ricky Wells leads Timo Lahti at Monmore Green. Pic: John Hipkiss

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